

CINEMAS ARE CONTINUING



AMERICAN NEWS

Middle classes step up pressure on Allende

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

SANTIAGO, Sept. 4.

HE Left wing Press is hoping to forecast the presence of the people, a fifth of Chile's population, at tonight's demonstration here in support of Dr. Allende on the anniversary of his victory in the presidential election of 1970, the middle classes are turning the screw even tighter on government in a new series of attacks.

A demonstration of Professionals of Chile (COPROCHILE) this morning started with a demonstration of indefinite duration and in the afternoon a group of men who of the country.

As reported with the trades of professions on strike, the was called in May, a strike of the country's people region to the south of the city of Llanquihue. The Press has claimed a success in bringing the industry could have serious consequences.

Car wage links begin crucial stage

BY GUY DE JONQUIERES

WASHINGTON

THE DILATORY pace of the United Auto Workers' contract negotiations with the major U.S. car manufacturers is expected to quicken later this week, when the union gets down to laying out its detailed demands before the Chrysler Corporation, the company it has chosen as its target for a possible strike.

With only 10 days to go before the current three-year labour contracts expire on September 14, negotiations are obviously entering a crucial stage, though the sense of urgency has been dulled somewhat by the superficially calm atmosphere that has surrounded bargaining so far.

Since the UAW dismissed as "a mockery" last week Chrysler's offer of a 3 per cent wage increase, it has come to be accepted on both sides that it is up to the union to take the next step. The UAW leadership is understood to be planning to present a detailed package in time to try Chrysler into making a second offer by next week-end, after which, it is hoped, serious negotiations can get under way behind closed doors.

Meanwhile, Detroit faced a challenge of a different nature in a Washington courtroom today, where General Motors and the Ford Motor Company have been called as defendants in the U.S. Government's first major criminal price-fixing case.

Conspiracy
The case centres on allegations that the two companies have conspired at the highest management levels to raise the prices of cars sold to large fleet-owners. The maximum possible penalties are fines of \$100,000, but the dispute is considered to be of immense potential significance to Detroit because it may generate a good deal of questionable publicity and could require a court appearance by such usually reticent luminaries as Mr. Henry Ford II, the Ford chairman, and Mr. James Roche, former Chairman of GM.

Both GM and Ford have stoutly proclaimed their innocence and have hired batteries of lawyers to defend themselves. The case is likely to drag on for several months, and even after it is settled the motor companies face a batch of civil suits from fleet-owners and others. A criminal verdict against Ford and GM would almost certainly constitute prima facie proof of liability in the civil cases.

Congress returns to face key power issues

BY ADRIAN DICKS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.

CONGRESS will return from its summer recess tomorrow to face determined effort on the part of the White House to recover a political initiative and get on with the business that President Nixon says has been neglected since Watergate.

First on the list of priority bills in the Administration's new is the Trade Bill, which is all under consideration by the House Ways and Means Committee and is unlikely to give the President the authority to negotiate a new multilateral trade agreement much before the early part of 1974. So far the committee has been broadly sympathetic to the President's objective of greater liberalisation of trade, but in order to avoid still other delays, the White House have to agree to drop the all-controversial section giving unfavourable status to the Soviet Union and to try to move this through separate legislation.

The White House also has hopes for action on two special bills sharing Bills and a Bill to create an independent corporation to provide legal services. It will also be keen for action on a bill to complete the Alaska pipeline Bill and a determination of Congress to profit from the weakness of the Nixon White House to recover the Constitutional role which it are likely to be no less feels has been stolen from it.

SANTIAGO, Sept. 4.

Yesterday, Dr. Allende persuaded Admiral Raúl Montero to remain as the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy. He had put in his resignation to the President at the week-end. Last month he spent in the post of Minister of Finance. Dr. Allende's success in persuading him to stay is seen as a sign of his continued influence over the armed forces. Nevertheless, the opposition Christian Democratic newspaper La Prensa ran a front page headline this morning to the effect that the armed forces were withdrawing their support from the cabinet after differences over the treatment of the striking haulters.

The Minister of Public Works and Transport, General Humberto Magliocchetti, yesterday stated that the government maintained its position of not renewing talks with the striking haulters and of assigning brand new lorries to any haulier who wanted to work.

The Central Bank has announced another devaluation of the escudo. A Chilean resident buying foreign currency for foreign travel will now have to pay 1,300 escudos for one dollar as against 990 formerly.

The rate for imports of machinery and spares and for clearings with international organisations goes from 75 to 85 escudos, for the import of non-essential goods the rate will now be 350 escudos to the dollar instead of 300 previously. Imports of food, fuel and raw materials is kept at 25 escudos to the dollar.

The black market buying rate for the dollar is around 2,000 escudos.

The motor industry has traditionally resisted surrendering important management prerogative, and the UAW's demand that workers should be permitted to choose when they wish to work overtime—rather than have to obey company orders—now do—crystallises a fundamental difference in outlook between management and labour.

Principle
In any event, the labour and management negotiators have at least been able to agree that the issue should be split into two separate categories, covering week-end overtime and week-day overtime, even though the question of principle remains unresolved.

On the monetary front, the UAW has let it be known that it is seeking annual increases of around 7 per cent, which would cost the motor companies around 50 or 60 cents extra per man-hour worked. While this falls roughly within the Phase Four guidelines for wage increases, its chances of acceptance by the Cost of Living Council are clouded by two related demands.

The first of these is for an improvement in the automatic escalator clause, which guarantees UAW workers additional increases linked to the cost of living index. Under the current contract, UAW members get an extra cent per hour for each rise of 0.4 per cent in the index, which has meant a total increase of 35 cents per hour over the past 18 months. The UAW is believed to be seeking to lower the threshold to a rise in the index of 0.25 per cent.

Secondly, there is the demand for additional fringe benefits, and a new code for health and safety grievances. However the UAW is believed to be taking a fairly flexible position and the attach more importance to the normal minimum wage, such a code rather than to the need for its immediate implementation.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT

Canada's \$1,000m. nuclear bet

BY ROBERT GIBBENS, MONTREAL CORRESPONDENT

CANADIANS find it difficult to accept that Brinco, part of the worldwide Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation group, should be attempting another \$1,000m. resource project, this time to enrich uranium, hardly before the last turbines at the Churchill Falls hydro development in Labrador have begun spinning.

There is the feeling, for one thing, that projects of this size are really the preserve of governments and not of private enterprise. Public shareholders may be forgiven if they are anxious to see dividends soon and the stock price higher than 35 or so. But Brinco, with cash flow rapidly rising from income from the Churchill Falls hydro development (which it controls with provincially-owned Hydro-Quebec and the Newfoundland Government), is becoming a fully-rounded resource development group with growing interests in oil and gas besides metallic minerals. These will help to provide the base large enough to handle its proposed uranium enrichment project. It has put up a plan to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, in which the Canadians would finance a plant built with the help of U.S. technology.

Determined
At the helm of Brinco is Mr. William D. Mulholland, an American in his mid-forties, an investment banker who has spent most of his working life in the field of energy—in some form. Mr. Mulholland is the man to whom Brinco turned after the former President, Mr. Don McFarland, was killed in an air crash at Labrador City at the close of the 1960s.

Mr. Mulholland is a determined man—some say a dreamer. He has worked for two years preparing the way for the enrichment plant, travelling constantly to the U.S., Japan, and Europe to sell what he feels is a tremendous opportunity for Canada, and arguing the economic benefits of the project in Ottawa. Though not a technical man by training, he has every aspect of the enrichment plant project clearly defined in his mind—from the politics, the technical challenge, the manufacturing requirements to the details of depreciation scheduling and financing. He is a pragmatist. He has lived with it for two years, and is determined to be ready to start construction in about two years' time. By then, even without the enrichment plant, Brinco will be well on the way to eclipsing its Canadian sister, Rio Algom Mines, as a resource development company.

On August 1, Mr. Mulholland experienced with the Churchill project, convinced him of the capabilities of Canadian manufacturers to make most of the equipment. About \$900m. of equipment, materials and services would be needed, and the bulk of the money would be spent in Canada. Brinco has already informed Canadian manufacturers of its technical requirements.

A workforce of 9,000 directly engaged in construction and in manufacturing plants handling orders would be required, and the enrichment plant would employ about 1,400 permanent skilled workers. The process used would be a modernised commercial version of the American diffusion system, with between 30 and 40 per cent in the project. A major stake would be held by the Mitsubishi and Marubeni industrial groups of Japan, and a major West German company would also join.

The exact location of the plant will be decided in the next two years—and on that point Mr. Mulholland carefully hedges his bets. It will probably be sited to rely on hydro power, for reliability and relative low cost, though that is not an absolute requirement. What will be essential, however, is a large source of clean fresh water for cooling. The Canadian provinces with large, undeveloped hydro sources are mainly Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. Certainly the cost of power will be a major factor—it represents about half the cost of the diffusion process of uranium enrichment.

Canadian uranium producers will have access to the plant for enriching their product, and countries building up their nuclear power industries will have an alternative source of supply for enriched fuel. Mr. Mulholland estimates that enrichment capacity outside Communist countries will have to double by 1978 to meet the demand, and that existing large stocks of enriched fuel will be exhausted by then. U.S. electrical companies, now with access to U.S. Atomic Energy Commission technology, are looking at the possibility of building a commercial enrichment plant in the U.S., but there are problems with power and water. Brinco says its own task force is well ahead of these companies in its technical and economic planning.

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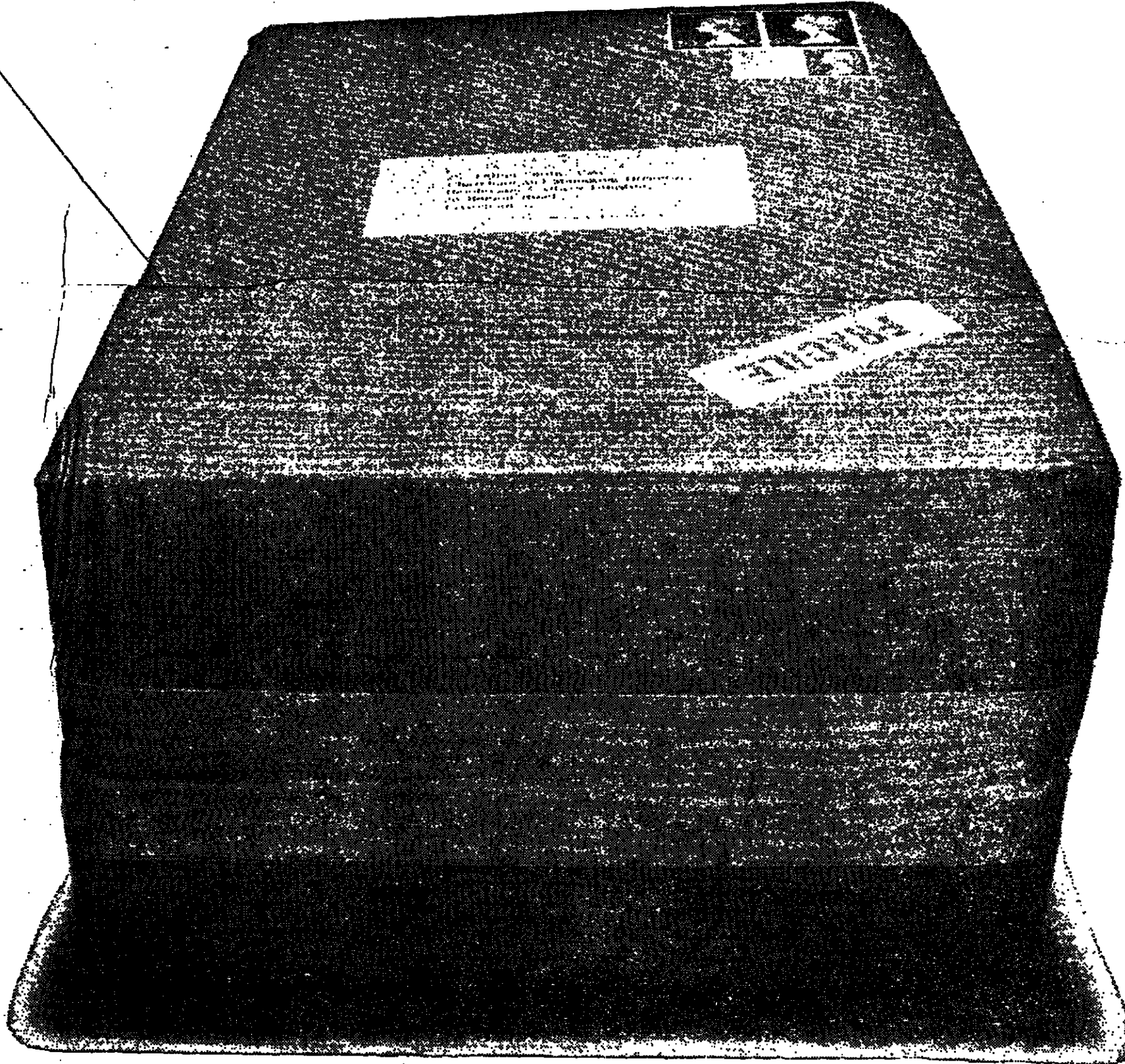
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EUROPEAN NEWS

OECD oil group aims for common price front

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

PARIS, Sept. 4

AN ATTEMPT to co-ordinate the position of major oil consuming nations in the face of higher price demands from the producers will be made on an unscheduled one day meeting of the restricted group of the OECD's Oil Committee here next Tuesday.

The Paris talks will come just four days before a special Conference of the OPEC nations in Vienna, at which the producing countries will try to come up with a pricing formula to increase their oil revenues to take into account the sharp increase in world inflation.

But they will have been lent extra urgency by the recent events in Libya, and the decision of Colonel Khedafi's Government to raise the price of crude to \$6 per barrel—much higher than prices in the Gulf, from where most of the West's oil imports come, and \$11.10 the oil imports back price laid down earlier for the companies that had agreed to Libya's nationalisation terms.

The OECD group will be chaired as usual by Mr. L. G. Wansink, Director General for Energy at the Dutch Economics Ministry, and will comprise similar high ranking officials from the U.S., France, the U.K., Canada, Italy, Japan, West Germany and Norway.

It is understood that the meeting will be mainly concerned with assessing the inflationary impact of the latest moves for the consuming nations, and co-ordinating attitudes. The companies themselves, however, will be brought into the discussion.

It will be followed on September 19 and 20 by a 24-nation plenary meeting of the OECD Oil Committee, at which the conclusions of the OPEC Vienna discussions will be drawn.

A probable topic for the restricted group's agenda next week will be progress towards the long-standing OECD goal for raising oil stocks in member countries to the 90-day level, and on the question of pooling resources in times of shortage.

Existing intra-European agreements, introduced, but not activated so far, in the wake of the 1956 Suez crisis, cover a small part of resources in times of need. It seems likely, however, that any question of a joint organisation of consumers will be carefully avoided. France for one has reserves on any such plan.

German unions want pay talks on regional basis

BY ANDREW HARGRAVE

FRANKFURT, Sept. 4

REPRESENTATIVES of the German metal workers' union, who resumed talks here to-day with the employers over the next round of pay negotiations affecting 4.3m. workers in the Federal Republic, insist that these must be held on a regional basis and not centrally as the employers have suggested.

Both employers and the union appear to agree that, in view of the recent spate of strikes and general unrest caused by the steep rise in the cost of living but also agitation by extremists, talks for a new agreement should be brought forward. The present agreement expires at the end of the year.

But, said a spokesman, the union wants to retain its "freedom of action" and carry out, as it has done in the past, strike ballots in each of the country's regions. If the employers' offer is unsatisfactory, the signs are that any offer to be made by the employers will fall short of a union demand for a rise not less than 10 per cent.

The employers' spokesman rejected the union's view, and there is a real danger that the talks, now in their third day and going late into the night, will end in a deadlock with the possibility of fresh industrial trouble.

Earlier to-day Herr Willy Brandt, the Federal Chancellor, strongly condemned a defence of unofficial strikes by young socialists and appealed for the support of the Government's stability programme.

Belgian workers ask for closer watch on profits

BY LORELIES OLSLAGER

BRUSSELS, Sept. 4

BELGIUM'S BIGGEST trade union, the General Workers Federation, has called upon the Government to intensify the fight against inflation by keeping a watch on profit margins and the costs of marketing, particularly advertising and misleading "special offers."

Discussing the union's priorities in the months ahead, secretary-general Georges Debuigne told a press conference that Belgian workers were "frustrated" by inflation despite the fact that wages and salaries in this country are linked to the cost of living index. In some sectors of the economy pay was not being adapted quickly enough to increases in the index, he added. According to M. Debuigne consumer prices in Belgium have risen by 6.93 per cent between August, 1972, and August this year.

He also called for a reform of the tax system to alleviate the effects of inflation on small incomes and increase the burden on incomes above B.Frs.600,000 (about \$6,500) a year. Moreover, it was necessary to protect savings against erosion by inflation. At present the average interest rate for the small saver was 4 per cent, not even enough to compensate for rising prices.

M. Debuigne also accused Belgian employers of frustrating schemes for giving their workers more information on the company's financial affairs, in particular on "unusual" enterprises.

ANTI-DISSIDENT CHARGES MOUNT

MOSCOW, September 4

THE SOVIET Press campaign against Dr. Andrei Sakharov, now the sole intellectual actively campaigning for civil rights here, continued to-day with indignant letters from workers, condemning his recent statements.

He was again accused of opposing the Soviet Communist Party's policy of détente with the West and of betraying Soviet science.

Reuter

Lip talks break down once more

BY GILES MERRITT

PARIS, Sept. 4

TALKS AIMED at finding a solution to the marathon Lip crisis broke down once more this afternoon after only a few hours. Held between representatives of the 1,300 Lip workers and M. Henri Giraud, the "company doctor" appointed by the French Government to implement its own rescue plan, to-day's negotiations had hopefully been expected to establish a compromise settlement to the four and a-half month long row.

But the only hopeful sign to emerge from to-day's meeting was the news that the two sides have agreed to reconvene on Saturday. It is expected that

one of the chief Lip leaders, M. Charles Piaget of the Leftist CFDT union, will be then have returned from Stockholm where he is currently meeting Swedish trades unionists.

This latest round of talks, which opened early this afternoon at Arcueil-Senans, a small town close to the Lip factory at Besancon, follows last week's breakdown of negotiations over the central point of whether Lip should remain a single company or whether the Government plan to split it into four separate operations should be accepted by the workers.

With the stalemate once more no nearer solution, the Government's position to-day received a further blow with news that yet another French factory has followed the Lip example with the workers taking over production despite their company's having been declared bankrupt.

The latest instance at the Etablissements Duceix hat-making concern, based at Saint-Dié in the Vosges, suggests that the Lip "cause" is beginning to gain impetus. With France's workers now flooding back to work after the August holidays it is feared that the Duceix case may only be the start of a new wave of "workers' control" incidents.

Bundesbank's new bond issues

By Andrew Hargrave

FRANKFURT, Sept. 4. THE BUNDESBANK'S Federal Bond Committee this evening announced the latest instalment of bond issues as part of the government's anti-inflation measures as well as an issue of its own, to the total value of DM1,000m.

The bond's committee's DM500m. issue with a 10 per cent coupon and an issuing rate of 101.25 over seven years and a yield of 8.75, confirms observers' views that while there has been a slight decline in the yields of fixed-interest securities over the past few weeks, the "10 per cent" or something not very much below it is likely to persist at least until the end of the year.

The bonds will be on offer to the public between September 7 and 11.

The other two are both federal issues, at DM250m. each. The first, to be offered on September 12, will be over an eight-year period and also carry a 10 per cent coupon. The issuing rate will be determined by "the conditions of the market."

The second issue, also of DM250m., will be determined by the market conditions prevailing at the time of issue.

The proceeds of both Federal bond issues will be frozen at the Bundesbank in accordance with government policy to reduce liquidity.

France hit by foreign workers' strikes

By Rupert Cornwell

PARIS, Sept. 4

THE MASS protest by North African workers in the South of France against the recent outbreak of racial violence spread further to-day, affecting the Var region centred around the major naval centre of Toulon.

A large number of the Var's estimated 20,000 immigrant workforce went on strike, in an extension of yesterday's action which saw tens of thousands of Algerians in the Marseilles region, centre of much of the unrest, stay away from work.

Marseilles to-day was still affected by the movement, and a number of companies were forced to stop work. In one case, the Hemery engineering concern, French workers downed tools as a gesture of solidarity with their migrant colleagues, following a call from the local branch of the powerful CGT Communist-controlled union.

At Fos, the giant steel works rising on the Mediterranean coast nearby, much of the construction work came to a halt as North Africans who account for 60 per cent of the workforce stayed away to-day. Shipyards and building sites in the region were also affected.

Seven dead

The union condemned the series of racial incidents which have cost the lives of seven Algerians in the last 10 days as being part of a carefully orchestrated campaign to force a cutback in the number of immigrants permitted from North Africa.

Only by a joint stand of French and foreign workers, and not by racialism and the police, would the true interests of labour be defended.

Despite the appeals for calm that have been emanating this week from various quarters, the tension is unlikely to be reduced by the decision to expel a Swiss priest, known for his work in immigrant communities in Marseilles, to his country of origin.

The authorities took the action against Father Berthier Perreux, who has been in Marseilles since 1967, on the grounds that he had infringed the "political neutrality" expected of a foreigner while residing in France.

Irish consumer prices 'to rise 10%'

BY DOMINICK J. COYLE

DUBLIN, September 4

CONSUMER PRICES in Ireland are now expected to increase by some 10 per cent this year according to the latest projections by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) published here to-day.

Food prices alone, says the Institute, will rise by about 14 per cent, a level of price inflation which the ESRI isolates as the one dismal feature of an otherwise generally optimistic review of the economy.

The institute is, however, concerned over the inflationary pressures persisting—and indeed increasing—in the economy and it reinforces an earlier warning that the prime objective of the Government's economic policy should be the successful conclusion of a third national pay agreement and the employment of appropriate fiscal, monetary and price control policies.

The ESRI is forecasting a somewhat more rapid expansion in imports which are now expected to rise by almost one-fifth by volume, concealing an estimated price increase of just under 9 per cent.

Despite the \$25m. inflow from EEC funds, mainly through farm subsidies, the resultant balance of payments deficit in the current year is put at \$75m. or some £20m. higher than last year.

"Although historically, deficits of this order would have been a source of worry, they must now be considered small relative to the overall value of trade. Moreover, given the normal level of capital inflow, the external reserves are likely to be maintained at a satisfactory level."

Growth rate

Since its last economic commentary in April, the Institute has revised upwards its projections for economic growth as a whole, and it now anticipates that the growth rate of real GNP in 1973 will be nearer to 6 per cent, than the 5 per cent estimated four months ago.

This higher growth is coming mainly from exports which continue to improve, although a

Union policy

The existing national wage agreement, with its built-in escalator clause to compensate workers for rises in the official cost of living index, expires for many industrial categories at the end of this year, and the national employer/labour conference is due to meet shortly to consider preliminary steps towards the opening of negotiations on a new agreement.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has yet to take a definitive policy decision on whether, or not to enter fresh negotiations, but many of the based unions are already in their opposition.

SWISS INFLATION WARNING

ZURICH, Sept. 4

THE ANNUAL inflation in Switzerland could rise to a level of some 9 per cent in autumn, according to a survey made by the Zurich Finanz und Wirtschaftswissenschaften (Finance and Economics) Institute, published in the Swiss newspaper "NZZ".

Prof. Peter Buser, who reached his conclusion after a survey of "certain" possible inflation in the year, says "yes" to the question.

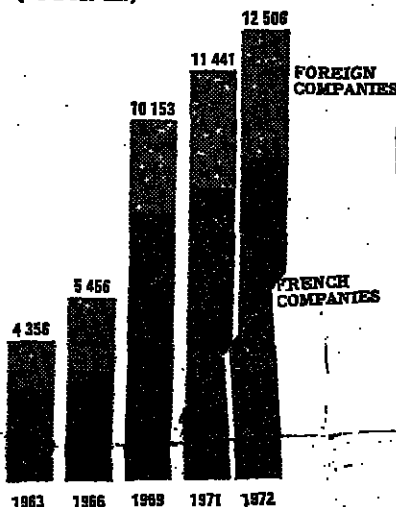
RHONE-POULENC GROUP

PARIS, FRANCE

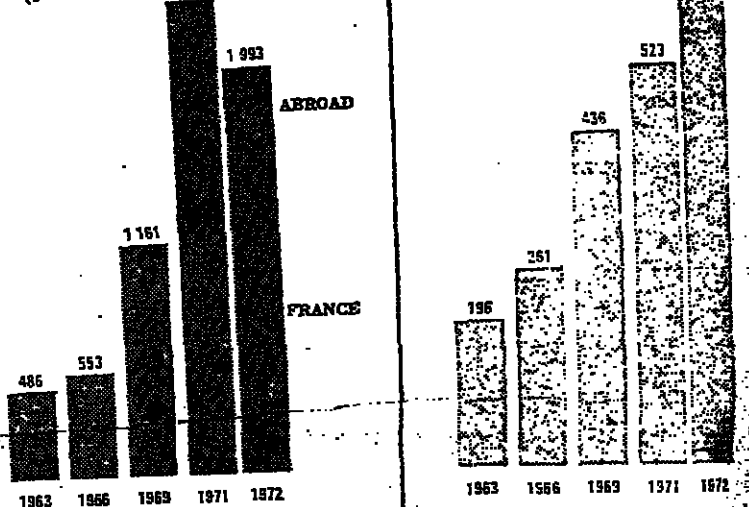
- Leading French exporter
- Leading French pigmeat world
- Staff of 120,000

I. RHONE-POULENC GROUP IN 1972 (consolidated figures in Frs. m.)	
Turnover	12,506.7
Cash-flow	1,426.3
Total consolidated net profit	284.7
Investments	1.99
Research expenditures	632.8
Balance-sheet total	17,026.5
Own capital (net position)	6,167.7

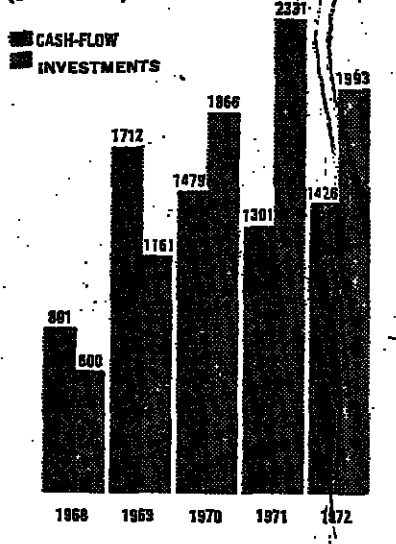
CONSOLIDATED SALES (in Frs. m.)



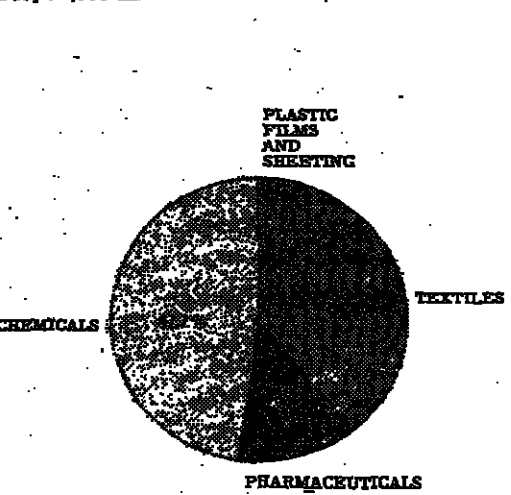
RESEARCH EXPENDITURES (in Frs. m.)



CASH-FLOW AND ANNUAL INVESTMENTS (in Frs. m.)



SALES BY SECTOR—1972 Frs. 12,506 m.



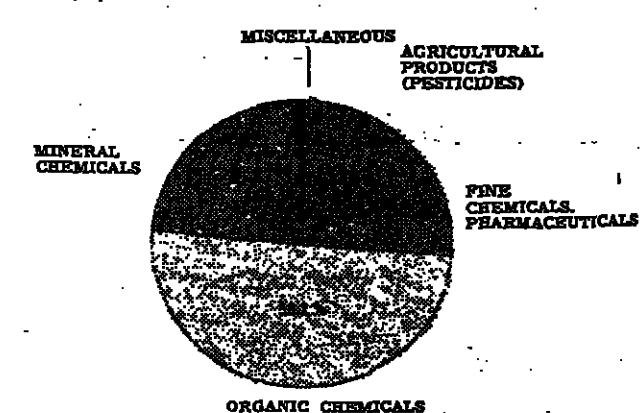
1972 was again a transition period for Rhône-Poulenc during which the Group continued its exceptional investment programme started in 1971, in spite of only average international economic conditions.

Consolidated sales totalled Frs. 12,506 million and represented an increase of 9.31% as against 9% for the preceding year, which is not negligible taking into account the stabilisation and sometimes decrease in prices of several products.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP'S DIFFERENT SECTORS IN 1972—

4 main sectors: textiles, pharmaceuticals, plastic film and sheeting, representing three lines of diversification for organic and mineral chemical productions.

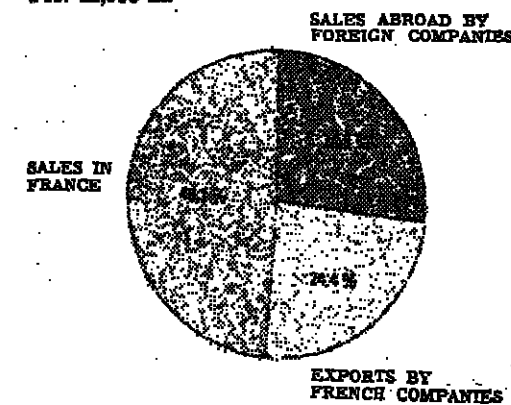
SALES OF SOME OF THE LARGE COMPANIES IN THE GROUP—1972 S.U.C.R.P., Rhône-Progil, Naphtachimie, Petro Non-consolidated figures Frs. 4,888 m.



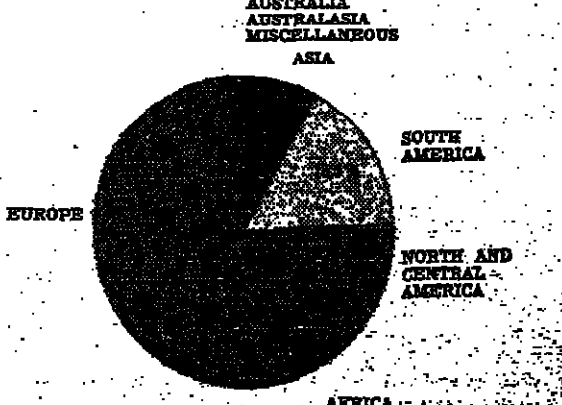
Of the outstanding features of the year, it should be noted that chemical activities increased by more than 11%, which compares favourably with overall French chemical production (9.9%) as well as with European chemicals in general.

III. RHONE-POULENC: AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP

SALES IN FRANCE AND ABROAD—1972 Frs. 12,506 m.



SALES ABROAD—1972 Frs. 5,065 m.



Half of Rhône-Poulenc's turnover is achieved abroad through exports of national companies and sales by foreign companies.

MAY AND BAKER in Great Britain, a Rhône-Poulenc subsidiary, is one of the largest British companies in pharmaceuticals field.

French and English versions of the 1972 Annual Report of the Group may be obtained from: Direction des Relations Extérieures, Rhône-Poulenc S.A., 22 avenue Montaigne, 75360 PARIS CEDEX 08

MOULINEX

The Extraordinary General Meeting of September 15, 1973, notice of which is about to be published, concerns the issue of 6,280 new shares requested by the Staff Investment Fund of the Company and the creation of a new option programme in favour of the said staff.

Formalities to increase the Company's capital by 20% through drawing on reserves will take place immediately after the meeting whilst distribution among shareholders of bonus shares in the ratio of one new share for five held, will take place in the last quarter of the year 1973, as laid down in the shareholders' notice of the May 19, 1973, Annual General Meeting.

The interim statement at June 30 for the first half of 1973, which will shortly be published, shows profits before depreciation (gross cash-flow) of Frs. 74,000,000 approximately, as against Frs. 46,777,000 at June 30, 1972 (+58%) for a turnover increased by 44.81%.

The final net profit (before tax, investment provisions and participation) will exceed Frs. 51,300,000 as against Frs. 30,936,000 at June 30, 1972 (+66%).



Since 1969 our fleet of HS 125 executive jets—the world's biggest civil charter fleet of its kind—has flown more than 4½ million miles.

The people we're flying include Ministers of Her Majesty's Government, the "top brass" of international industry and commerce, bankers, oil men, real estate tycoons and stars of stage and screen. But flying VIPs isn't the only thing we do. Our maintenance and handling facilities for corporate aircraft—from piston twins to the more sophisticated jets—are second to none.

We also look after visiting corporate aircraft from all over the world and have links with such international airlines as Trans World Airlines—as well as the major car hire networks at home and abroad.

But, what counts most of all, we have more than 25 years experience of business aircraft operation.

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Portugal may ban African debate in coming election

BY BRUCE LOUDON

LISBON, Sept. 4.

BETTER than even chance is developing that in the imminent general election campaign the Portuguese Government will embargo all criticism of the determination to stay in the African territories.

This was learned authoritatively today as consideration of the general election campaign began in the aftermath of the summer holidays. Though it has not yet been officially announced, it is known that the election will take place on September 28, with an official one-month period of electioneering to begin on September 28.

A ban on discussion of African policy would be a reversal of the initiative taken by the Salazar regime during the last election four years ago. Then campaigning on the overseas question by both Government and Opposition candidates was encouraged and became the central theme of debate and discussion. Dr. Caetano claimed to have received an overwhelming mandate to continue his African policies.

Influential Government sources now claim, however, that much has changed in the past four years. They assert that Opposi-

tion movements in metropolitan Portugal have become intimately linked with the African "liberation" movement, with which Portugal is locked in battle.

They point out that at the "Opposition Congress" in the northern city of Aveiro earlier this year delegates stood in silence to honour the memory of both Amílcar Cabral, the dead PAIGC leader, and Eduardo Mondlane, slain former president of FRELIMO, and that policies of retreat from Africa and submission to the insurgent movements were adopted at the behest of a strong contingent of delegates from the underground Communist Party.

Beyond this, however, any embargo would most certainly be the result of mounting pressures within the regime: many influential members believe the original decision to open overseas policy to debate was a mistake which profoundly affected morale in Africa.

"We do not discuss whether the Algarve is part of Portugal, so why do we discuss our overseas possessions?" complained one influential source. "Dr. Salazar was quite right when he insisted that the one thing be-

yond all discussion was national sovereignty."

Indeed, political realities in Portugal following the profound reaction against the international alleged massacres is such that Dr. Caetano cannot ignore the strong current of opinion in the Army and elsewhere demanding a strong front and no further discussion on the African commitment. There is within the regime a sharp tendency to close ranks and react violently against criticism.

A ban of this type would come as no surprise to the opposition movements which appear to have already abandoned any hope of organising an effective campaign and of getting either a significant number of votes or a seat in the 150-member National Assembly.

'Cholera now under control in Naples'

By Peter Tumiati

ROME, Sept. 4.

SIG. LUIGI GULI, the Health Minister, stated in an interview today that the cholera epidemic in the Naples area is now under control and can be said to be dying out. Efforts were being concentrated for the attainment of a similar result in Bari and in the Apulia region.

However, a man died of cholera today in the little town of Bisceglie near Bari. It was stated this evening that there are three cholera cases in the Bisceglie hospital.

A case of cholera was also reported from Florence today. In Rome, 34 people suspected to be suffering from cholera were in hospital and two ascertained cases of cholera have now been admitted in the city. One was that of the elderly pensioner whose death was reported yesterday, whereas the other concerns a man who is now said to be out of danger.

Preventive measures were being taken all over Italy today, with particular attention devoted to the disinfection of ports connected with Tunisia.

The case reported from Cagliari, in Sardinia, yesterday has been confirmed as a cholera case. ● The Health Ministry banned the sale and consumption of shellfish throughout Italy in a bid to stop the cholera epidemic.

The latest polls show the Social Democrats trailing in the campaign for the Swedish elections on September 16. Hilary Barnes discusses the likely changes in economic policy if the Social Democrats should lose power.

Shifting the burdens

THE SWEDISH general election campaign is in full swing and for once it looks as if the right-centre opposition parties have a good chance of victory. If they do take office it will be for the first time since 1932. What difference would it make to Sweden if a non-Socialist Government was returned to power?

The first point to make is that none of the three opposition parties, the Centre Party, Liberal Party or Conservatives, have any intention of dismantling the welfare state or the comprehensive system of social security, which even today is still probably the world's most advanced. The opposition parties have generally supported social welfare reforms and in the current election campaign are even outbidding the Social Democrats. One of the Centre Party's main programme proposals is to reduce the retirement age from 67 to 65.

Confidence

A Right-Centre Government would be headed by the Centre Party leader, Mr. Thorbjörn Fälldin, a pipe-smoking farmer who can inspire immediate confidence. The Centre Party became the party of the small farmers and rural poor in the aftermath of the depression between the wars. It formed a coalition with the Social Democrats in 1938 and again from 1951 to 1957. Therefore, it has always had a good deal in common with the Social Democrats.

It is only in the last year or two that it has finally and firmly come down in favour of a Right-Centre alternative to the present Government. "Equality and

security in a decentralised society" is how it sums itself up in the title of its programme.

The Liberal Party, led by Mr. Gunnar Hellén, also has a great deal in common with the Social Democrats. Quite a few Social Democrats think that a coalition with the Liberals could be the solution to their troubles if they cannot form a government alone. The Liberals are especially close to the Social Democrats on foreign policy.

This leaves the Conservatives (who a couple of years ago changed their name to Moderates) as the only party with a markedly different profile, with a far more clear-cut dedication to private enterprise and a suspicion of an increasingly strong State bureaucracy. They also believe firmly that Swedish 2390m, or over 2 per cent, of the GNP, also has an investment role—an extremely unfortunate one, in the view of its critics. In some cases it has set up factories producing goods at prices that private concerns say they cannot compete with. Consequently private firms have closed down and the employment effect has amounted to nil.

For all that the two sides have in common, however, there would probably be some very important differences of emphasis between a Right-Centre Government and recent Social Democratic administrations, especially with regard to economic and business policy.

The Social Democrats have for many years been addicted to the use of selective rather than general measures of demand management. For example, they have preferred to meet cyclical changes in unemployment by providing relief work and job training rather than by reducing consumer taxes. They stuck to this policy in the recession of 1971 and 1972, with growth rates

of zero and 3 per cent. The opposition urged general measures to stimulate demand, and industry backed it, arguing that its long-term health depended on an expanding domestic market to boost investment.

But for investment, too, the government has been inclined to use selective measures. Instead of giving a general stimulus to investment it has stepped up investment in the state-owned industries, for example, and it has held the level of industrial investment at a relatively high level through the recession by subsidising investment in anti-pollution measures and devices.

The mighty Labour Market Board, which is responsible for administering labour market policies and has a budget of more than Kr4,000m. (about £390m, or over 2 per cent, of the GNP), also has an investment role—an extremely unfortunate one, in the view of its critics. In some cases it has set up factories producing goods at prices that private concerns say they cannot compete with. Consequently private firms have closed down and the employment effect has amounted to nil.

More specific measures have been promised by the opposition parties to help small and medium-sized enterprises. Over the years they have gradually been saddled with two sizeable sets of problems, which together have led to a jump in the number of bankruptcies and takeovers (for tax reasons, smaller companies are particularly susceptible to offers from foreign companies) and a slump in the establishment figures in manufacturing. One of the problems which the smaller businesses are up against is that Social Democratic industrial policy measures, such as the system of counter-cyclical tax-free reserves and some forms of export credit, are only available to larger com-

panies. An unintended, but quite comprehensive, system of discrimination against the smaller ones has thereby emerged. The second main difficulty, affecting family enterprises and those with a limited number of shareholders, is the tax system. They are severely handicapped by wealth and inheritance taxes in a way in which larger companies with a widely spread share ownership are not. Smaller companies have to make considerably larger profits than big companies if they are to survive a change of generation.

Mr. Fälldin, of the Centre Party, has set as a target for a Right-Centre Government the creation of 100,000 new jobs. That implies a climate considerably more favourable to business investment than there is in Sweden today. An anti-Socialist Government would probably try to create it by getting away from selective—and discriminatory—measures and by turning to the use of general measures of demand control.

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Equality

One of the underlying reasons for the selective approach (which has a very respectable theoretical basis in the work of a Swedish economist Dr. Gösta Rehn) is the emphasis, increasing in recent years, which the Social Democrats place on equality. They are reluctant to do anything which might improve profits. The Social Democrats used at one time to boast of their good

relations with industry, but since the mid-1960s they have lost the confidence of industry, which has seen its profits falling, investment stagnating, and the tax burden increasing. At the same time the state has begun to play a more interventionist part, increasing the role of state-owned industry, placing state representatives on the boards of the banks, setting up the state Investment Bank, channelling state-controlled funds into the share market, and so on.

Being wanted

Mr. Fälldin's election programme includes a series of proposals for helping the smaller firms, including a three-year exemption from the 4 per cent payroll tax for all new labour taken on in that period, special interest-free loans, total exemption from the payroll tax in regional development areas, special export credit arrangements, aid in export marketing, and exemption from the employer's social security contribution for older workers.

These measures would certainly do much to give the smaller businesses the feeling of being wanted, something they have missed in the last few years. But it is an open question whether they could create the 100,000 jobs, most of which, according to the Centre Party, should be outside the main city areas. At first sight, they look like provisional measures rather than basic and lasting reforms, but even so they may be sufficient to give Swedish industry a new lease of life.

Austro-Czech row looms after air incident

BY PAUL LENDVAY

VIENNA, Sept. 4.

FOR THE SECOND time within six weeks, Czech jet fighters on Sunday attacked an Austrian glider with auxiliary motor which strayed into Czechoslovak airspace. The plane crashed and two Austrians on board were killed.

The Czech Government yesterday formally protested against the violation of its airspace. A similar crash, also involving an Austrian glider with two persons killed, occurred on July 26. The Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, said last night that the Government was waiting for the report of a commission of Austrian experts which flew yesterday to Prague. The Austrian Government today rejected the Czech protest.

While the exact circumstances of the crash caused by the attack of two Czech fighter planes about eight miles within the Czech airspace are far from clear, the Austrian Press reacted today with extreme sharpness to what is described here as

"unwarranted brutality" of the Czechs in dealing with unarmed gliders straying erroneously into their airspace. The influential daily Die Presse demanded that relations with Prague should be restricted "to an absolute minimum."

After the first incident in July the Czech authorities did not allow Austrian experts to inspect the site of the crash. This time it took six hours or more until the Czech authorities replied to an Austrian query concerning the whereabouts of the small plane.

There is no doubt that the new air incident will subject Austro-Czech relations to further strains. In contrast to relations with all other Communist neighbours, those with Czechoslovakia have never fully recovered from the effects of the 1968 invasion. Talks about a compensation agreement for Austrian assets confiscated after the war have not yet yielded any results despite two meetings of Czech and Austrian Foreign Ministers this year.

A case of cholera was also reported from Florence today. In Rome, 34 people suspected to be suffering from cholera were in hospital and two ascertained cases of cholera have now been admitted in the city. One was that of the elderly pensioner whose death was reported yesterday, whereas the other concerns a man who is now said to be out of danger.

Preventive measures were being taken all over Italy today, with particular attention devoted to the disinfection of ports connected with Tunisia.

The case reported from Cagliari, in Sardinia, yesterday has been confirmed as a cholera case. ● The Health Ministry banned the sale and consumption of shellfish throughout Italy in a bid to stop the cholera epidemic.

Bonn probe resumes

BY JONATHAN CARR

BONN, Sept. 4.

A PARLIAMENTARY probe into political bribery allegations today took up its work after a month's recess and invited a Cabinet Minister to appear as the first witness to-morrow.

The Research and Technology Minister, Herr Horst Ehmke, will be the highest member of the Government coalition Parties to appear since the committee began its work in June.

Press reports here claim that the all-party committee to Herr Ehmke withdrew DM50,000 from federal funds on head of the Federal Auditing April 26, 1972. A former Office. He is in a position to appear since the committee drawn, when and by whom.

he was paid the same amount next day as a reward for helping the Government win a vote which enabled it to stay in office.

Herr Ehmke, who at that time was Minister in the Chancellery, has now publicly stated that no federal funds went to Herr Steiner. But he has declined any further details.

Also invited to appear before the all-party committee to-morrow is Dr. Hans Schäfer, head of the Federal Auditing Office. He is in a position to say what sums have been with-

GREEK MINIMUM WAGE BOOSTED

By Our Own Correspondent

ATHENS, Sept. 4.

MINIMUM WAGES for unskilled workers and minimum monthly salaries for white collar employees in Greece have been increased for the second time this year to meet rising inflation.

An official announcement said minimum wages were raised by about 10 per cent, and minimum salaries by about 12 per cent. Salaries of civil servants were also raised by 10 per cent, retroactively from August 1.

In April this year the Government announced wages and salaries were being increased by between 25 and 30 per cent, in three stages

EEC helps Danish payments

BY HILARY BARNES

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 4.

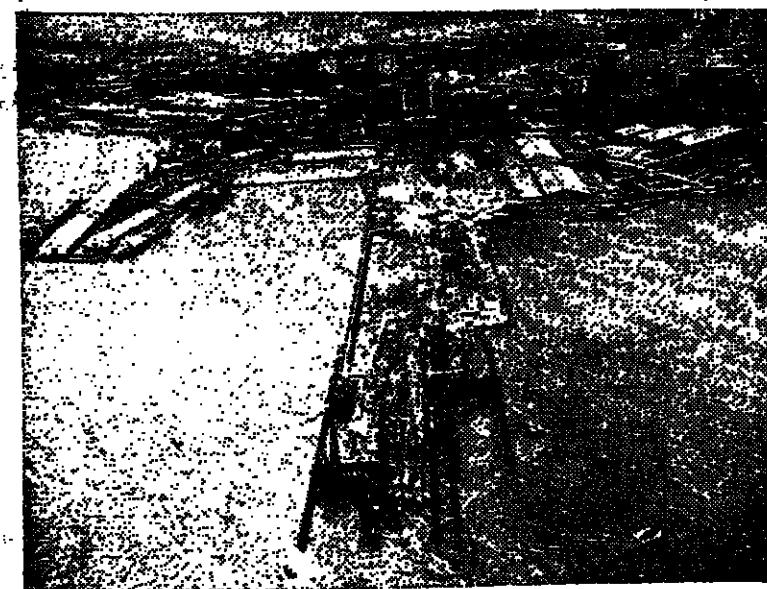
DENMARK'S FIRST-HALF current balance of payments figures show that the country made a net gain of Kr810m. through EEC financial arrangements. It received Kr1,015m. from Feoga, and contributed Kr205m. towards EEC budgets, according to official figures.

In spite of the EEC contribution, the current balance showed a deficit of Kr2,220m. compared with Kr700m. deficit for the whole of last year (when the figure was affected by an import surcharge) and a Kr3,400m. deficit in 1971.

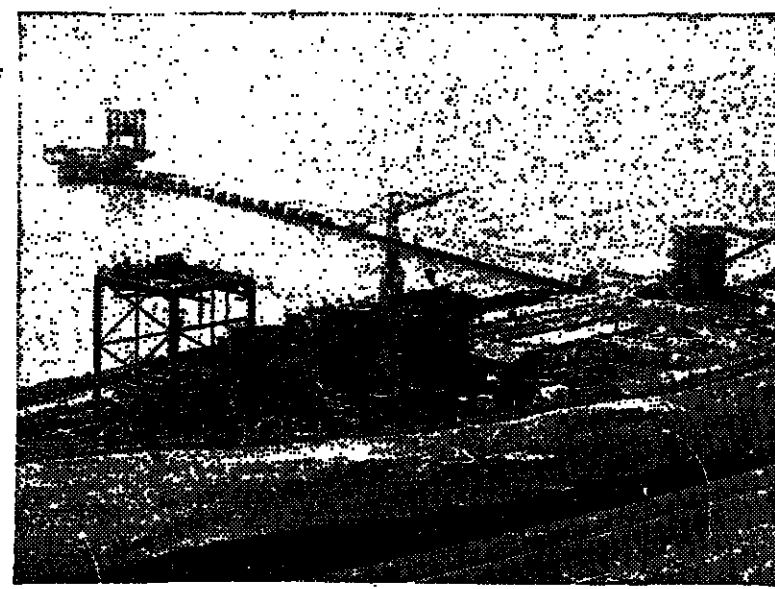
The trade deficit for the first seven months came to Kr5,458m., a record, with imports up by 28.8 per cent, and exports by 16.7 per cent, including a 30 per cent rise in exports of agricultural products, primarily as a result of higher prices under the common agricultural policy.

Hourly wages in Danish industry in June were 20.7 per cent higher than in the corresponding months last year, according to the wage index published by the Government statistical office. The index, base year 1970, rose to 154.8 from 128.1 in June last year.

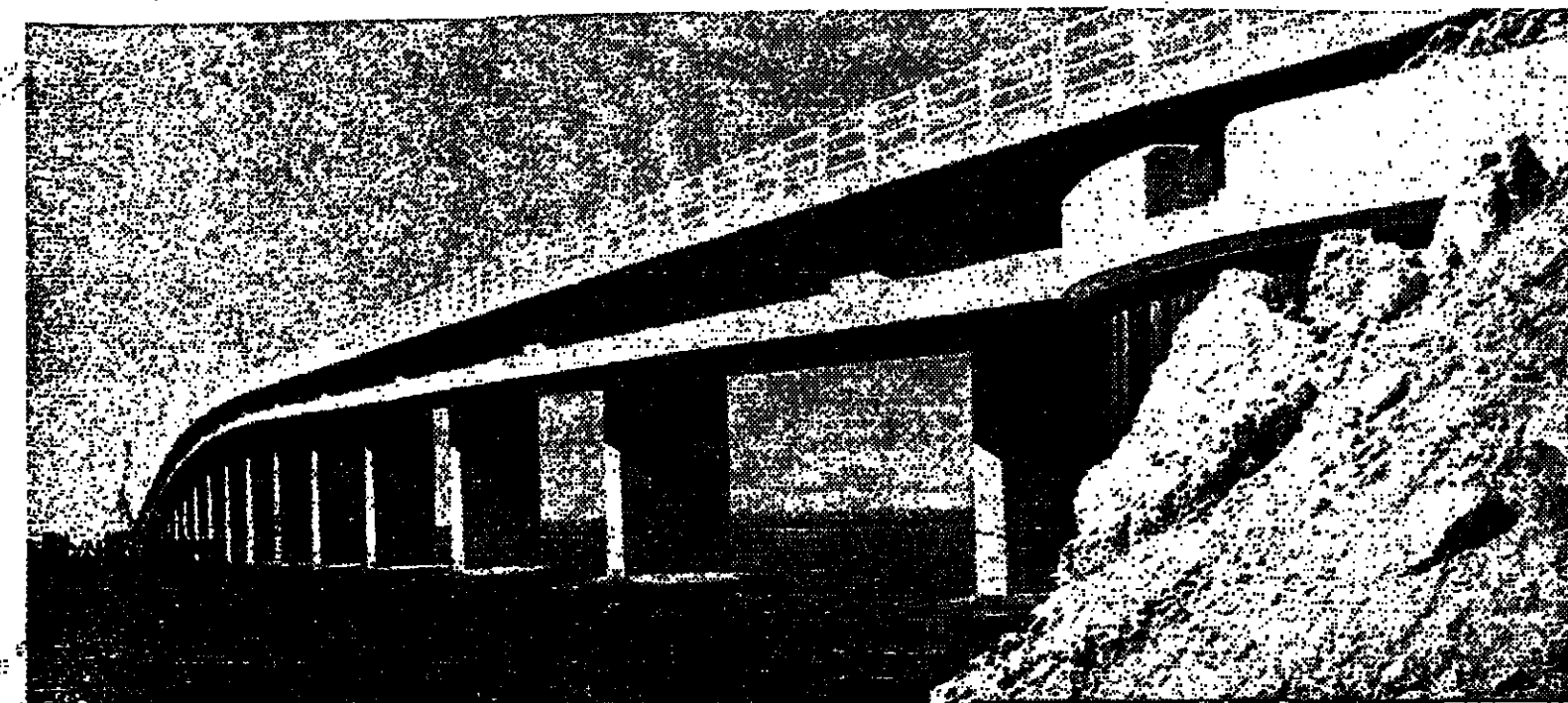
the technologists



at Lagoon Wharves, Singapore. Construction by Taylor Woodrow International Ltd. joint venture with Dillingham Overseas Corporation of Honolulu under Taylor Woodrow management. Client: Port of Singapore Authority. Consulting Engineers: Sir Bruce White, B. Barry & Partners.



Brighton Marina. The last 600 ton caisson at the first of the two breakwaters, forming Brighton's new man-made harbour, goes into position. Taylor Woodrow are responsible for the structural design of the breakwaters. Client: Brighton Marina Co. Ltd. Architects: Louis de Soissons Partnership in association with Overyton & Partners. Consulting Engineers: Lewis & Duvivier and Ove Arup & Partners. Quantity Surveyors: G. D. Wallford & Partners.



Van Island Causeway, Australia. Three mile bridge and causeway structure connecting Garden Island to the mainland. Client: The Commonwealth Department of Works. Consultants (for the bridge): Mowbray & Partners.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

UGANDAN ECONOMY

Living from hand to mouth

BY CHARLES HARRISON IN NAIROBI

THE ECONOMY of Uganda will not easily recover from the setbacks—and particularly from the blows to foreign investment—of the last four years. The rot set in late in 1969 when the then President Milton Obote ordered all banks in Uganda to incorporate as local companies. A few months later he announced sweeping nationalisation measures with the Government declaring that it had taken over 60 per cent of the shares of the banks and of a wide range of industrial and commercial firms—but without paying for them.

There was a brief period of euphoria after the military coup early in 1971 had ousted Obote, and after the new military president, Gen. Amin, had unscrambled most of the earlier nationalisation moves. But his subsequent expulsion of the Asians (who dominated most of Uganda's large-scale industry and commerce) and his later takeover of the British businesses operating in Uganda soon demolished any hope of a more rational attitude towards foreign investment and expertise.

The businesses taken over are now being operated by Government agencies or by individual Africans to whom they have been allocated. In most cases, the original product names have been retained—the tobacco company still operates as BAT Uganda and produces the same brands of cigarettes, although the British American Tobacco company has been pushed out; tea estates taken over from the Mitchell-Cotts group continue to export tea under the same estate names; and security guards continue to wear the Securicor insignia though Securicor no longer has any say in the affairs of the Uganda company.

Similarly, the former Madhvani and Mehta industrial empires, whose Asian owners were pushed out despite their belief that they were Ugandan citizens, are producing sugar, beer, glassware, matches, textiles, steel and many other

"The economy can recover to a significant degree... But it is going to be a long, hard task."

Lonrho group. Unilever has important investments in machinery, soap, detergent and other companies, often linked with larger subsidiaries based in Kenya.

In May of this year President Amin announced that he had ordered all remaining British firms to be taken over immediately. But nothing has been done to implement this, and while nothing is certain in Uganda these days it appears that it will not be implemented. However, that statement alone was enough to convince many of the 100 or so foreign owned companies then operating in Uganda that they had no future. They have either closed down or are in the process of doing so. But the biggest, with aggregate assets of several million pounds, continue, despite all difficulties, because they have no choice. There is no one to whom they can sell out, and even if they did sell they could not take the proceeds out of Uganda.

This applies to Grindlays, Barclays and Standard Bank, and to the Indian-owned Bank of Baroda—although they have all drastically reduced their scale of operations and the number of their branches. Their business has shrunk because Gen. Amin has ruled that all State and semi-State business must be placed through the State-owned Uganda

Commercial Bank, and that the blocked accounts of the departed Asians and Europeans (who were allowed to take only a small part of their assets when they left) must also be placed with the UCB. It pays no interest on these accounts, though they total millions of pounds.

There is an unreal air about trade and commerce in Uganda. Shops and industries are operat-

ing, but many items are either not available or have soared in price. As the stocks left behind by Asian wholesalers dwindle, they are seldom replaced, so the list of shortages grows. The new African businessmen who have taken over find it difficult, and often impossible, to obtain import licences and currency allocations for new imports.

Yet some of them do get the licences and the currency. And there is a thriving trade with neighbouring Kenya, often at inflated prices, for goods which Ugandans are desperate for. The Nairobi-Entebbe aircraft invariably carries Ugandans returning with car windcreens, motor spares, bits of machinery, and other goods which are unobtainable in Uganda.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has responded to growing public protests about rising prices and increasing shortages. He apparently hopes to stave this off by declaring his readiness to pay, on conditions, but few people, in Uganda or elsewhere, have any illusions about his ability to do so.

(Charles Harrison was until recently Kampala Correspondent. This is the last of three articles in which he has reviewed the state of Uganda a year after Gen. Amin's Economic Revolution. The previous articles appeared on August 7 and 24.)

And other goods produced in Uganda, which should be going to the local market, are being smuggled into neighbouring countries and sold there. Heavy penalties are being threatened, and efforts to track down offenders are being increased.

Uganda is desperately short of foreign exchange. No figures are published by the central Bank, because Gen. Amin says this would reveal the country's secrets to its enemies. Statistics generally are either months late or non-existent. Since foreign reserves have been run down to virtually nothing, the country must live from hand to mouth, utilising the proceeds of its coffee, cotton, tea and copper exports as they come in.

Production of coffee and cotton is by small African farmers. But there have been serious difficulties in transporting and processing these crops. With the small farmer finding it hard to get his cash, there is little incentive for him to produce more, despite constant Government appeals to do so. The same applies to tobacco, exports of which have slumped although there is a good market.

It looks like taking a long time before a significant part of these problems can be overcome. As a result Uganda must expect continuing economic difficulties though it is a country rich in natural resources and has not been troubled by the drought which has hit so many African countries.

Given efficient handling of her primary products, and a closer attention to the needs of overseas markets, the economy can recover to a significant degree. But it is going to be a long, hard task. On top of this, Gen. Amin is under increasing pressure to pay compensation for the assets he has seized, which are worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

He apparently hopes to stave this off by declaring his readiness to pay, on conditions, but few people, in Uganda or elsewhere, have any illusions about his ability to do so.

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Lebanese cabinet discusses death of three 'guerillas'

BY IFSAN HIJAZI

BEIRUT, Sept. 4

THE LEBANESE Cabinet held an emergency meeting to-day under Premier Takkeddin Solh to consider the repercussions of a shooting incident last night in which three civilians were killed and an army officer wounded.

The three men, all Lebanese, were described by the press as followers of a Nasserite popular leader who is known for his support for the Palestinian guerillas. Although they were not directly involved, the commands warned of the consequences of such incidents.

Premier Solh, who had been in contact all night with the guerilla leaders, said after the cabinet meeting the commanders assured him they had nothing to do with the incident. He expressed hope that all those concerned would exercise restraint, especially during the funeral of the victims of the incident.

He said the military prosecutor was now probing the incident and that the officer involved was

at the disposal of the investigation. He promised that strict action would be taken against whoever may be found responsible. Premier Solh later left for Algiers to represent Lebanon at the Non-Aligned conference.

An Army communiqué said the three men were arrested last night after an army patrol searched their car and found a gun. They were then ordered to drive to the military court with an officer, with them in the car. When they tried to change course, the officer drew his gun but one of the men tried to take it away from him. The gun went off and injured one of the men.

Firing then broke out outside the car, forcing the officer to open fire, wounding the remaining two men. The officer was hit in the back and the face the communiqué said.

A Palestinian commando spokesman said the incident was provoked "in order to renew attempts aimed at striking at the Palestinian revolution and the

Lebanese nationalist forces." He called on the Government to restrain the elements seeking to bring harm to Lebanon.

Last May a number of persons were killed or wounded in clashes between the Army and the Palestinian guerillas. The incident last night took place in a neighbourhood where many Palestinians live and not far from where the offices of the Palestine Liberation Organisation are located.

A joint communiqué issued at the end of a three-day official visit by the Kuwaiti ruler, Sheikh Sabah al Salim al Sabah, condemned Israel's occupation of Arab territory taken in the 1967 six-day war and demanded joint Arab action.

President and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt reiterated their support for the Palestinian people. The communiqué also stressed the importance of the non-aligned summit conference which opens to-morrow in Algiers and expressed support for African liberation movements.

President Sadat accepted the ruler's invitation to visit Kuwait at an unspecified future date.

East African concern at S. African N-bomb claim

BY JOHN WORRAILL

NAIROBI, Sept. 4

REPORTS THAT South Africa is making the bomb are causing concern in East Africa. Africans are specially worried at the possibility that, if these reports are correct, South Africa will have to test atomic weapons somewhere, like the French and the Chinese, with the risk of fallout spreading over the continent.

The Kalahari desert is pinpointed as the likely testing ground. Nuclear proliferation is also feared as a result of the development of a South African bomb.

Taking the matter up strongly, the Nairobi Daily Nation said: "Politically, the manufacture of atomic weapons by South Africa shows nothing more than sheer irrationality on the part of the Afrikaner policy-makers. Assuming they hope to gain strategic advantage over Africa north of

the Limpopo, it would seem reasonable enough to suppose that those African nations might as well feel compelled to counter this strategic advantage by acquiring nuclear weapons.

The brutal truth is that either in rocket speed time or aircraft flying time neither party would have more than two minutes in the former, and five or just a little more in the latter, to deliver their loads. And because of the structure of South African industry the greatest damage would fall on her."

The paper says that the nuclear deterrent is no rational answer to the perennial issues of apartheid. "And Africa would certainly be a happier place if the Afrikaner Calvinists were to get out of their shell and start on the long path to true partnership between themselves and the Africans."

Most ANC executives held, says leader

BY DAVID BELL

OVER HALF the executive of the African National Congress in Rhodesia are now in prison, the organisation's vice-president told a Press Conference in London yesterday.

The Rev. Canaan Banana called on the British Government to take positive steps to stop the detentions. Thirty-three out of 55 members of the ANC executive were now in detention, he said.

"We feel that the U.K. Government has taken up a vacillating position and this attitude militates against a meaningful dialogue between Black and White. This attitude is comforting to their Right wing and is raising false hopes for Mr. Smith."

Mr. Banana said Mr. Smith was pursuing a deliberate campaign to crush the ANC and intimidate the Rhodesian African population. "He is determined that they give in to his terms and the constitutional avenues towards a settlement are steadily being closed off," he said.

conference in which the Africans could take part as equals.

Mr. Banana alleged that the Rhodesian Army was torturing Africans on the northern frontier of the country. He said that 2,000 had fled to Zambia where they were in refugee camps, but he declined to elaborate on the allegation.

The ANC vice-president had talks with British officials this morning but said that little progress had been made. He is in London for two days on his way to Washington where he is to do a three-year theological course.

Caledonian carrier for Brazil fair

BRITISH CALEDONIAN Airways has been appointed official carrier to the British Industrial Exhibition to be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in August next year.

The organiser, Industrial and Trade Fairs International, expects to attract 350 major British companies to the exhibition, which is being sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board.

Battle for alternative Cambodia capital

PHNOM PENH, Sept. 4

CAMBODIA'S third largest city, Kompong Cham, was fighting its life to-day with Communist gunners shelling the city and Government soldiers in the suburbs. The Cambodian command reported that rounds of mortar fire crashed into the city last night.

Fighting within the city was concentrated at the university where fighting raged in May 1970. Communist forces tried to take Kompong Cham.

Government sources believe the insurgents are trying to take Kompong Cham because it is a major city and could serve as a rival capital to Phnom Penh, as well as giving the guerillas a propaganda weapon at the recent non-aligned conference in Algiers and also the forthcoming UN General Assembly session.

The airport, some three miles from the centre, was cut off although it remained in Government hands. Aircraft have been unable to land for more than a week and supplies are being dropped to the city's 100,000 people.

All roads leading to Kompong Cham have been cut, but a day a river conveyer managed to reach the city with reinforcements and ammunition.

UN General Assembly session the 12th century temple of Angkor which is one of the revered in Cambodia and has been used as a refuge for people fleeing from the fighting.

From Saigon it was reported that Viet Cong and South Vietnamese military negotiators met for the first time in days, averting the threat of complete breakdown in talks implement the Paris agreement.

Reuter

Shannon

(Business systems equipment and office furniture)

Salient points by Major G. L. Webb, the Chairman

Results

The growth of the Company during the year to 31st March 1973 has been considerable. Turnover has increased by no less than 40% and the net profit before tax by 50% to £243,756 including acquisition profits of the new subsidiaries of £87,000.

Dividends

An interim ordinary dividend of 3% gross was paid in April and a final dividend of 3.78% net will be paid on 18th September 1973. This makes the equivalent of 8.4% gross for the year—the maximum permitted.

Acquisitions

During the year we acquired Carbro Properties, well known as Carson Office Furniture, and Stor Cabinets, manufacturers of multi-drawer cabinets. Since Carsons were acquired, they have made considerable progress and will undoubtedly be major contributors to the Group in the future.

National Loose Leaf Company Limited

The company has made excellent progress and is currently recording its best year of growth. We therefore anticipate a further increase in profits this year.

Property

Acquisitions, of course, means accumulating properties of one or another. This enables us to rationalise and in many cases extend to advantage, as we are doing at Basildon; or to use the capital better advantage by disposal such as we are doing at Maidenhead.

The Future

We are still actively investigating the acquisition of further businesses. These will be designed to fit in with our long term strategy to improve the Group image and financial performance while improving worker-management relationships and customer satisfaction.



The Shannon Limited

A member of The Investment Company Group.



The irrepressible commute-suit.

Commuting used to mean nothing more adventurous than the 8.35 from Weybridge to Waterloo. But now it's likely to involve jetting regularly to New York and back. And that demands a different kind of business suit.

This DAKS two-piece is tailored in Maillissimo double-knit jersey from St. Joseph of France.

It always stays immaculate after a hard night's flight. Or even the Monday morning crush on the 8.35.

DAKS suit in dark grey or navy chalk stripe. £65.00.

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مكازم الناصر

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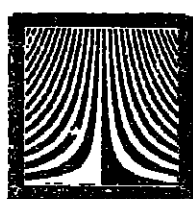
You'll need someone, locally, to tell you where you stand now you're considering expanding or establishing your business in any of the EEC countries.

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The Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

HEAT TRANSFER

New twist to cooling

CONVENTIONAL car radiators, along with the fan, fan pulley and water pump, may be destined for the museum even sooner than the conventional internal combustion engine, now threatened by the rotary-engine Wankel.

Instead of having a radiator in the front of a car which depends on the ram effect of the car's forward motion through the air, together with a fan, to cool the heated water flowing through its tubes, the car of the not too distant future could be fitted with a rotating radiator which is much more efficient.

The technology which is making this possible is a new approach to most situations where heat has to be dissipated or induced. The basis of this new heating/cooling technology is a rotary radiator/heat exchanger/heat pump in various configurations originally developed in West Germany and perfected in the United States by Donbar Development Corp.

A heat exchanger is a device which transfers heat from one medium to another, or which removes or dissipates heat. A conventional heat exchanger consists of a fixed or stationary heat transfer body within which one medium, say, heated water or Freon gas, is circulated by a pump or other means, and over or around which a second medium, say, air, is propelled by a fan or other means.

Donbar's heat exchanger consists of a rotating heat transfer body which, because it rotates,

does not need an external fan to propel the external medium over the rotating heat transfer surfaces. Two rotary heat exchangers may be combined as a rotary heat pump for room and vehicle air conditioners, such as possible, as the location of a

Two basic versions of the Don-

bar heat exchanger/rotary radiator is not as critical

as that of a conventional auto-

mobile engine cooling system.

In the cross-flow type, the Don-

bar heat exchanger is a rotatable

drum whose sides are composed

of a large number of closely

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In The Supreme Court of South Africa
(Northern Cape Division)
Kimberley: Friday the 31st Day of August, 1973
Before The Honourable Lady Justice Van Den Heever
In the matter of the application of The
**NEW JAGERSFONTEIN MINING
AND
EXPLORATION COMPANY LIMITED**

Applicant
Having heard Mr. Peart, Counsel for the applicant, and
having read the petition and other papers.
IT IS ORDERED

1. THAT a rule nisi do issue calling upon all persons interested and concerned to show cause, if any, to this Court at 10 a.m. on Friday the 5th day of October, 1973, why the following order shall not be made by this Court:—

(i) that the Special Resolution passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on the 28th August, 1973, to the following effect:—
"The authorised capital of the Company be reduced from R2 000 000 divided into 1 000 000 shares of a nominal value of R2.00 each to R1 600 000 divided into 800 000 shares of a nominal value of R2.00 each and that the issued capital of the Company be accordingly reduced from R1 700 000 divided into 850 000 shares of a nominal value of R2.00 each to R1 377 000 divided into 688 500 fully-paid shares of a nominal value of R2.00 each, and that the directors be and they are hereby authorised to give effect to such reduction by repaying on or about the 28th October, 1973, to members registered as such in the books of the Company at the close of business on the 12th October, 1973, and to holders of share warrants to bearer, paid up capital of the amount of 38 cents on each of the said 850 000 issued shares" is confirmed.

(ii) That approval is granted for the registration with the Registrar of Companies of the following minute.

MINUTE
The authorised capital of the company is henceforth reduced from R2 000 000.00 (two million rand) divided into 1 000 000 (one million) shares of a nominal value of R2.00 (two rand) each to R1 600 000.00 (one million six hundred and twenty thousand rand) divided into 800 000 (one million) shares of a nominal value of R2.00 (two rand) each, and the issued capital of the company is henceforth reduced from R1 700 000.00 (one million seven hundred thousand rand) divided into 850 000 (eight hundred and fifty thousand) shares of a nominal value of R2.00 (two rand) each, to R1 377 000.00 (one million three hundred and seventy-seven thousand rand) divided into 688 500 (eight hundred and eighty-five thousand) shares of a nominal value of R2.00 (two rand) each, all fully paid up. This reduction is effected by paying back to the holders of the said 850 000 shares, the sum of 38 (thirty eight) cents per share.

2. That this rule be published forthwith once in the "Government Gazette", the "Rand Daily Mail" newspaper, the "Friend" newspaper, the "Diamond Fields Advertiser" newspaper and in a newspaper published and circulating in London, England.

By the Court,
P. Smuts
Registrar

Private medical schemes show less growth in membership

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

PRIVATE MEDICAL care schemes in Britain increased in 1971-72 by only 3.8 per cent. in the total income, the Private Patients Plan (18 per cent.), compared with 6 per cent. in 1970-71, according to a survey published to-day.

The survey, carried out for the Department of Health, found that although about 2m. people are covered by private medical care, the provision schemes are equal to only just over 1 per cent. of the money spent by the National Health Service. It was commissioned by the NHS "to provide some measure of the size, scope and trends in the provision of medical care outside the NHS."

£27m. spent

In 1971-72 spending on private medical care by provident scheme subscribers amounted to £27m., compared with an NHS expenditure of £2,484m.

The subscription income of the provident schemes grew by £5.2m., an increase of 21 per cent. But it was not matched by the rise in the number of subscribers, which went up by only 4 per cent. to just over 1m. The number of lapsed subscriptions reached a record 64,000 last year.

Long-term trend

This trend of rapidly-growing income and benefits but slower growth in numbers has been a characteristic of the long-term "schemes" growth states the survey, by Lee Donaldson Associates, of London.

Three schemes dominate the private medical sector. BUPA,

and accounts for the major part of their growth.

U.K. Private Medical Care. Provident Schemes Statistics 1972, published by Lee Donaldson Associates, 21-23, Bury Street, London, S.W.1, price 25p.

U.K. shipping groups join £20m. drilling venture

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH SHIELDS, Sept. 4.

TWO U.K. shipping companies—Sir William Reardon Smith and Sons, Cardiff, and W. A. Souter, Newcastle—have acquired large stakes in a new £20m. international venture into undersea oil drilling.

The consortium—to be known as the Atlantic Drilling Company—has ordered two big semi-submersible self-propelled drilling rigs for delivery in 1975. One will be built by Akers Meks Verksted, of Oslo, and the other by Rauma-Repola, of Rauma, Finland.

With an overall length of about 354 feet and a width of nearly 230 feet, the rigs will be able to drill to a depth of 25,000 feet.

Reardon Smith has a 32 per

cent. share in Atlantic Drilling

and W. A. Souter, 25 per cent.

The Cardiff company will manage the rigs.

It is expected that the rigs will be used initially in the North Sea or in the Irish Sea.

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Concrete oil rigs plan to be studied

By Chris Baur
EDINBURGH, September 4.

THE SECRETARY of State for Scotland has called in for examination the application by John Mowlem, the civil engineering company, for permission to establish a construction yard for concrete off-shore production platforms near Ullapool.

This is the company's second application to be studied by the Scottish Office. The first, which will be the subject of a public inquiry, probably in October, was for a site at Drumblair, Loch Carron, in Ross and Cromarty. The Scottish Office has commissioned Sphera Environmental Consultants to carry out an environmental impact analysis of both projects.

The consultants' report on the Drumblair site is now in the hands of planning officials. Its study of the Ullapool site (on which nearly 2,000 objections have been lodged) should be complete in November.

BUILDERS WARNED ON TERRORISTS

To prevent terrorists from gaining extra supplies of explosives, the National Federation of Building Trades Employers is advising its member firms using this type of material to step up security precautions.

"Members should pay special attention at this time to ensuring that regulations are strictly complied with and to take appropriate precautions against theft of explosives, a federation statement says.

Wales 'must attract companies from overseas'

WALES MUST attract new companies from other countries, as the employment situation is critical, the Development Corporation of Wales said yesterday.

The corporation's magazine Progress Wales, states that a more vigorous campaign is vital if Wales is to secure full benefit from Britain's high level of industrial activity.

Campaigns by the corporation had produced significant benefits in the face of severe international competition, but the need for new employment, especially for men, was still critical.

"Some 20,000 jobs have to be found during the next few years to replace those which will be lost in the steel and coal industries," the magazine states.

There would also be a need to bring the average unemployment percentage for Wales down to that for Britain.

Steady growth

In the first half of 1973, there was steady economic growth and industrial expansion in Wales, it adds.

Government policies, designed to achieve a 5 per cent. annual growth rate, had resulted in a substantial rise in production and a welcome decrease in unemployment.

Labour shortages in the Midlands and the South East had also attracted a lot of companies to Wales.

"It is very gratifying to find that the attractions as a base for European operations are being

'Who's Who' of offshore oil for conference

Mr. Christopher Chataway, Minister for Industrial Development, is to open the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's conference on offshore oil, being held on October 3-4 at Grosvenor House.

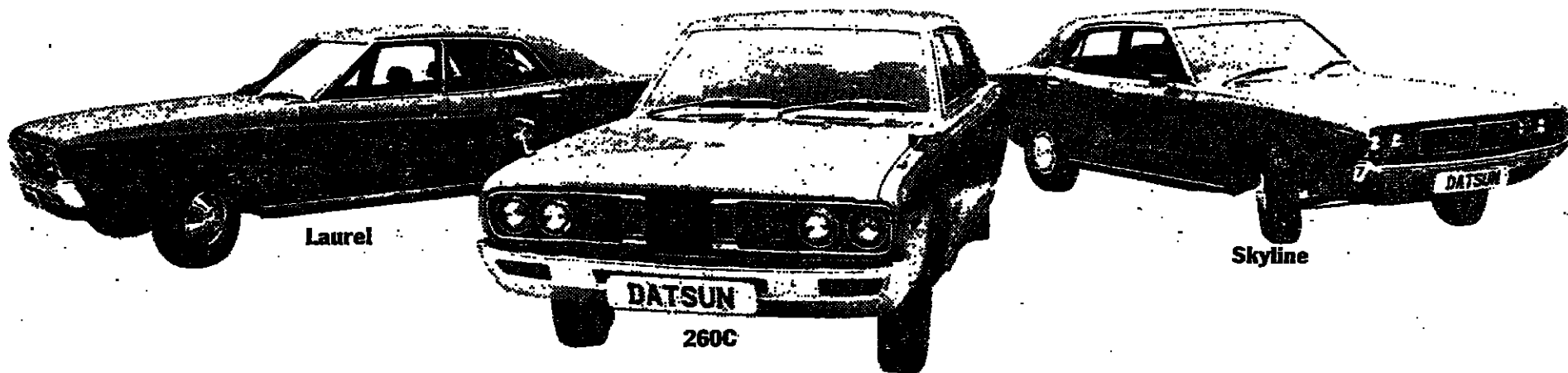
The conference is designed to demonstrate to British industry the opportunities for selling equipment and supplies to the growing offshore industry.

The conference, which has the support of the Department of Trade and Industry's Offshore Supplies Office, will be the first occasion on which a complete "who's who" of Britain's own offshore industry will have been compiled.

The two-day conference will be split in two sessions, the first day concentrating on outlining the opportunities and the second on specialised study groups and individual business appointments.

The chairman will be Sir Maurice Laing, chairman of John Laing Construction.

Datsun's Executive range: lets you look like a Managing Director and leaves you enough money to live like one.



Chosen carefully for the British market, from more than twenty luxury saloons produced by Nissan-Datsun in Japan, there are three distinctively different models in the new Datsun executive range.

They are the Laurel, the Skyline and the 260C. All of them lean, handsomely designed cars offering high standards of comfort and luxury.

Both the Skyline and the 260C have 6-cylinder engines derived from Datsun's famous 240Z sports car. An advanced design which has proven its reliability in many international competitions including three outright wins in the tough East African Safari Rally.

The Laurel's engine, a robust 2-litre, is another very reliable Nissan unit developed from much intensive engineering research and experience.

And complementing the reliability of the cars there are surprisingly low running costs.

No matter what your needs are in the luxury car

market, one of the Datsuns will suit them perfectly.

If you're a family man looking for a spacious, comfortable saloon (100 m.p.h.) then the Laurel is probably for you. Should you prefer a sporting saloon, then the Skyline (115 m.p.h.) is a car to give you all the enjoyment you're looking for.

Then again, if you have chairman-like tendencies, Datsun's limousine, the 260C, will more than take care of you (even at 105 m.p.h.).

One way and another you won't find any other cars in the class to match the new Datsun executive range.

Because apart from their very businesslike prices, you will find an enormous list of equipment built into every car (and its price) that adds real emphasis to the claim that the new Datsuns are truly luxury cars.

So if you are a successful businessman with standards to keep up, check out the specifications below and then see your nearest Datsun dealer for the complete story.

The Datsun Laurel: a large, comfortable, luxuriously equipped family saloon.

2 litre engine, 114 b.h.p. (S.A.E.), 100 m.p.h., 26 m.p.g. on 3-star petrol.

Equipment:
Full flow heating and ventilation with 3 speed blower.
Adjustable reclining front seats.
Adjustable head restraints.
Dual circuit, power assisted brakes.
Front disc brakes. Rear brake anti-lock valve.
Long life cooling system with anti-freeze.
Radial ply tyres.
All round tinted glass. Metallic paint.
Central fuse box.
Anti-roll bar.
Electric screenwash. 2-speed wipers.
Alternator.
Steering lock. Locking fuel cap cover.
Burst proof door locks.
4 headlights. Reversing lights.
Hazard warning lights. Ignition keyhole light.
Self sprung boot lid. Boot light.
Interior bonnet release.
Side indicator repeaters.
Grab handles and padded armrests.
Centre console armrest with glove box. Coin tray.
Lockable glove compartment. Trip recorder.
Handbrake warning light.
Safety breakaway anti-dazzle rear-view mirror.
Push button radio.
Zone-toughened windscreen. Heated rear window.
Anti-glare dash.
Cigar lighter. Electric clock. **£1,799**

The Datsun Skyline: for sports car performance in a luxury saloon.

2.4 litre, 6 cylinder engine, 130 b.h.p. (S.A.E.), 115 m.p.h., 25 m.p.g. on 3-star petrol.

Equipment:
Full flow heating and ventilation with 3 speed blower.
Adjustable reclining front seats.
Adjustable head restraints.
Dual circuit, power assisted brakes.
Front disc brakes. Rear brake anti-lock valve.
Long life cooling system with anti-freeze.
Radial ply tyres.
All round tinted glass. Metallic paint.
Central fuse box.
Anti-roll bar.
Electric screenwash. 2-speed wipers.
Alternator.
Steering lock. Locking fuel cap cover.
Burst proof door locks.
4 headlights. Reversing lights.
Hazard warning lights. Ignition keyhole light.
Self sprung boot lid. Boot light.
Interior bonnet release.
Side indicator repeaters.
Grab handles and padded armrests.
Centre console armrest with glove box. Coin tray.
Lockable glove compartment. Trip recorder.
Handbrake/low brake fluid warning light.
Safety breakaway anti-dazzle rear-view mirror.
Push button radio. Laminated windscreen.
Heated rear window with warning light.
Cigar lighter.
Electric clock with second hand.
Fully independent suspension.
Adjustable steering column.
Rev. counter. Ammeter.
Stainless kick plates on all doors.
Map pockets (behind front seats).
Driver's door mirror. Glove compartment light. **£1,997**

The Datsun 260C: the top car for the top executive.

2.6 litre, 6 cylinder engine, 140 b.h.p. (S.A.E.), 105 m.p.h., 21 m.p.g.

Equipment:
Full flow heating and ventilation with 3 speed blower.
Adjustable reclining front seats.
Adjustable head restraints.
Dual circuit, power assisted brakes.
Front disc brakes. Rear brake anti-lock valve.
Long life cooling system with anti-freeze.
Radial ply tyres.
All round tinted glass. Metallic paint.
Central fuse box.
Anti-roll bar.
Electric screenwash. 3-speed wipers.
Alternator.
Steering lock. Locking fuel cap cover.
Burst proof door locks.
4 headlights. Reversing lights.
Hazard warning lights. Ignition keyhole light.
Self sprung boot lid. Boot light.
Interior bonnet release.
Side indicator repeaters.
Grab handles and padded armrests.
Centre console armrest with glove box. Coin tray.
Lockable glove compartment. Trip recorder.
Handbrake/low brake fluid warning light.
Safety breakaway anti-dazzle rear-view mirror.
Push button radio with station control for rear passengers.
Laminated windscreen.
Heated rear window with automatic time switch.
Anti-glare dash. 2 Cigar lighters.
Electric clock with calendar.
Electric aerial.
Low fuel warning light.
Map pockets (behind front seats). Map lamp.
Safety step lights on rear doors.
Wing mirrors. Centre armrest for rear seats.
Interior boot release.
Stop light failure warning device.
Collapsible steering column.
Under bonnet light. **£2,289**

NISSAN NISSAN MOTOR CO. LTD.

Datsun U.K. Limited, Datsun House, Worthing, Sussex. Tel: Worthing 204441. London Showroom: Datsun Baker Street, 66 Baker St, London W.1. Tel: 01-477 4827.

THE MONUMENT

by W. A. Speck

Near London Bridge the Doric column to commemorate the Great Fire of 1666 was designed by Wren and made of Portland Stone.

An article in the September issue

HISTORY TODAY

Now on sale, 30p



Crouch Group Limited

Main points from the circulated statement by the Chairman, Mr. R. E. Aris, F.C.A.

- ◆ Pre-tax profit £1,047,634—a record, representing an 81% rise over previous year 1971/72.
- ◆ Total equivalent gross dividend increased to 20% compared with 15½% last year. Earnings per share 15.26p.
- ◆ Estate development companies show marked improvement in profits.
- ◆ Plant hire section reorganisation shows improved trading which should result in increased profits in current year.
- ◆ Net income from property investment higher than in previous period.
- ◆ Excluding contract claims, current year pre-tax profit expected to satisfactorily exceed that of 1972/73.

BUILDERS—CONTRACTORS—ALLIED TRADES

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the Registrars, Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited, St. Olaf House, Tooty Street, London, SE1 2PL.

COATED METALS HOLDINGS LTD

Marked Improvement Achieved

	1973 £'000's	1972 £'000's	1971 £'000's
Turnover	4,647	3,377	2,612
Profit before tax	417	181	323
Profit after tax	245	110	193
Earnings per Ordinary Share	21.4p	9.6p	16.8p
Gross Dividend per Share	10.5p	10p	10p
Dividend cover (times)	2.1	1.0	1.7

* Equivalent

In his circulated statement Mr. G. T. Cantlay, C.B.E. (Chairman) reports:—
The improvement in profits is attributed to the elimination of substantial losses which we have been carrying for two years at our Blackpool plant.

The order position remains encouraging and I see no reason at present why the capacity of both our plants should not continue to be fully utilised.

I am proud to report that Coated Metals Limited received the 1973 Queen's Award for Industry for Export Achievement. The value of the Company's exports has increased in five years from £111,675 in 1968 to £1,295,476 in 1973.

I look forward to the continued growth of our Company, and expect a further improvement in profits.

LUDIP

Manufacturers of Aluminium and Lead Coated Steel Coil Sheet and Strip

Has of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Glamorgan Works, Pontardulais, Glamorgan.

Stansted growth inevitable if Maplin is abandoned

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE DEVELOPMENT of Stansted as a major airport for London would "almost inevitably" occur if the proposed airport at Maplin were to be abandoned for any reason.

This was made clear yesterday by Mr. Nigel Foulkes, chairman of the British Airports Authority, when he presented the Authority's annual report for 1972-73.

He said the Authority's own forecasts indicated traffic growth to around 120m. passengers a year in London and the South-East by 1980, with some 700,000 aircraft movements a year.

The present plans envisaged Maplin taking eventually up to 125m. passengers a year, with a four-runway layout, although initially it would open with one runway.

"If the Maplin project were abandoned, we should have to face a completely different problem—how to expand Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted to meet the air transport growth which seems likely to engulf the South-East in the 1980s. Airport planning has a 10-15 year 'horizon' and we should have to change our plans immediately."

At Heathrow, passengers could double from the present 30m. a year to 60m. in the mid-80s and to 80m. by the end of that decade. At Gatwick, passengers could increase five times from 10m. a year to 50m. in the mid-80s, and perhaps 80m. a year by 1990.

"Instead of closing when Maplin opened, Stansted would have to be developed to absorb a share of the 1980s' growth. When Heathrow and Gatwick reached 827,000; and 21.6 per cent. more

the limits of their land and runway capacity. Stansted would have to take all subsequent growth.

"Passengers could probably increase from today's 300,000 to about 8m. a year in the mid-80s and perhaps 15m. by the end of the decade. Air transport movements could grow seven-fold from 5,000 a year to 35,000 by the mid-80s and thence possibly to 100,000 a year if Heathrow and Gatwick had reached their runway limits in the late 80s.

"About 1,500 acres of extra land would be needed, and probably a further 1,000 if Stansted were to become a major two-runway airport for the 1990s."

If Maplin did go ahead, however, Mr. Foulkes hinted that there might even be the possibility of reducing the burdens on Heathrow and Gatwick in the 1980s and beyond.

Balanced view

He wanted the other side of the problem debated—what would happen if Maplin were not developed—so that a balanced view could be taken, in advance of the final Parliamentary decision, expected early next year.

The annual report shows that in 1972-73 the Authority earned a pre-tax profit of £11.5m., or 46.3 per cent. more than in the previous year. Trading profit was £14.2m., up to 29.6 per cent.

The Authority's five airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Prestwick and Edinburgh) handled 11 per cent. more passengers at 26.4m.; 0.2 per cent. more aircraft movements at 827,000; and 21.6 per cent. more

cargo and mail at 546,000 metric tons.

The most significant trend was the much greater number of passengers than aircraft movements, reflecting the increased use of bigger, wide-bodied aircraft, such as the Jumbo jets.

The Authority has financial problems ahead, however, in that heavy investment will be required for further development at its airports, including Maplin, at a time when operating costs and interest payments will be rising, and when there will be less income from duty-free sales as a result of membership of the Common Market.

Chris Baer, writes: The Authority's deputy chairman, Mr. Robin MacLellan, said in Glasgow that he hoped arrangements would be complete for the takeover of Glasgow (Abbottsinch) Airport from Glasgow Corporation and Aberdeen (Dyce) from the Civil Aviation Authority by April next year.

This would give the Authority control of all major Scottish airports—it already runs Edinburgh (Turnhouse) and Prestwick. Mr. MacLellan said the development of Scottish aviation would benefit from a unified marketing strategy.

He added that too many Scottish tourists were still flying to London first. It was estimated that about 1m. people a year travelled through London to and from Scotland, and this was creating undue pressure on London's airports.

He said that the Authority's £3m. reconstruction of Edinburgh Airport was on schedule with the £2m. contract for the runway extension expected to be let within about three weeks.

Luton Airport 'a congested slum'

By Arthur Sandles

ANOTHER BRITISH tour operator, Cosmos Tours, has severely criticised conditions for travellers at Luton Airport, the prime departure point for the U.K.'s 3.5m. package tourists. Mr. Wulf Jones, managing director of Cosmos, called Luton a "congested slum."

Mr. Jones was arguing for expansion of Luton's facilities and campaigning against delays while Maplin is developed.

Luton is the main airport for the package tour services of Thomson, Clarksons and Cosmos, three of the country's four biggest tour operators. It is generally acknowledged that passenger facilities are extremely poor. The terminal is too small, the catering services are inadequate, parking is insufficient and, at peak times or when aircraft are delayed there is not even space for people to walk about.

Mr. Jones, who adds his voice to that of Mr. Francis Higgins, of Thomson Holidays, recently, complained bitterly of Government restrictions on plans to extend the facilities at Luton. Luton Airport is owned by the local authority. It produces about £1.5m. a year in revenue for the council and is well able to finance improved terminal facilities.

Mr. Jones was speaking in London at the launch of the Cosmos tour programme for the summer of 1974. The programme, with the accent heavily on strong price competition with the company's rivals, includes an offer of 15 days in Majorca from £32, eight days in Bulgaria from £45, and Aparthotel holidays at Benidorm for £28.

Key economic statistics released yesterday

Banking statistics

(as table 9 in Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin)

ELIGIBLE LIABILITIES, RESERVE ASSETS AND RESERVE RATIOS

1—Banks	August 15, 1973	Change month
Eligible liabilities	£m.	£m.
London clearing banks	16,308	+765
Scottish clearing banks	1,534	+95
Northern Ireland banks	366	+7
Other deposit banks	377	—
Accepting houses	1,090	—209
British overseas and Commonwealth banks	1,447	—34
American banks	1,895	+3
Foreign banks and affiliates	543	—26
Other overseas banks	310	+24
Other U.K. banks	3,642	+15
Total eligible liabilities	27,440	+621

Reserve assets	August 15, 1973	Change month
London clearing banks	2,117	—93
Scottish clearing banks	206	+15
Northern Ireland banks	51	+4
Other deposit banks	52	+1
Accepting houses	160	—19
British overseas and Commonwealth banks	208	—7
American banks	258	+3
Foreign banks and affiliates	84	+3
Other overseas banks	48	+4
Other U.K. banks	489	+2
Total reserve assets	3,664	—100

Ratios	%	%
London clearing banks	13.0	—1.3
Scottish clearing banks	13.5	+0.2
Northern Ireland banks	14.0	—0.5
Other deposit banks	13.3	+0.4
Accepting houses	15.0	+0.9
British overseas and Commonwealth banks	14.3	—0.2
American banks	13.5	+0.2
Foreign banks and affiliates	15.5	+0.2
Other overseas banks	15.4	+0.1
Other U.K. banks	13.4	—
Combined ratio	13.4	—0.6

Construction of total reserve assets	£m.	£m.
Balances with Bank of England (other than Special Deposits)	245	—37
U.K. and Northern Ireland Treasury bills	230	+163
Company tax reserve certificates	19	—
Money at call	2,244	—276
British Government stocks, and stocks of nationalised industries guaranteed by H.M. Government, with one year or less to first maturity	402	—10
Local authority bills	76	+38
Commercial bills	444	+22
Other assets	2	—1
Total reserve assets	3,664	—100

Holdings with more than one year but less than 18 months to final maturity amounted to: £39 +182

2—Finance houses	£m.	£m.
Eligible liabilities	345	+14
Reserve assets	375	+2.6
Ratio (%)	10.9	+0.4

Volume of retail sales (Seasonally adjusted)

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1968 prices) 19	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
All kinds of shops (11,540)	101.1	100.8	101.3	100.7	100.4	100.0
Food shops (5,000)	103.1	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4
Total (11,540)	102.4	102.1	102.7	102.1	101.8	101.4
1970	103.6	101.8	104.9	103.7	101.8	101.4
1971	103.8	99.7	107.0	110.1	111.6	111.6
1972	110.0	101.3	116.8	115.3	115.3	115.3
1973 1st Quarter	104.4	99.5	108.2	110.1	112.1	112.1
2nd Quarter	105.9	100.0	110.4	111.2	111.2	111.2
3rd Quarter	106.3	99.4	111.5	111.5	111.5	111.5
4th Quarter	106.5	100.5	114.7	114.7	114.7	114.7
1973 1st Quarter	111.3	102.1	118.2	118.2	118.2	118.2
2nd Quarter	111.7	103.1	121.8	121.8	121.8	121.8
3rd Quarter	112.4	100.3	130.0	130.0	130.0	130.0
4th Quarter	112.4	100.3	121.7	121.7	121.7	121.7
June	114.5	101.3	125.2	125.2	125.2	125.2
July	115.9	102.4	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3
February-April	116.1	100.6	128.1	127.1	127.1	127.1
May-July	113.9	101.0	123.8	118	118	118
Percentage change	—1.9	0.4	—3.4	—	—	—

Hire purchase and other instalment credit business

£m.	UNADJUSTED	Total de outstanding finance in and retail
New credit extended	Increase	Increase
1970	1,735	84
1971	2,053	240
1972	2,292	424
1973 1st Quarter	612	108
2nd Quarter	640	123
3rd Quarter	670	106
4th Quarter	770	177
1973 1st Quarter	866	78
2nd Quarter	886	36
3rd Quarter	729	146
4th Quarter	681	77
Percentage change	—7	—

Terms of trade

Import and Export Unit Value and Volume Index Number	1961	1970	1971	1972	1973
Balance of Payments Basis	Unit Value Index Numbers (unadjusted)	Index Numbers (Seasonally adjusted)	Index Numbers (Seasonally adjusted)	Index Numbers (Seasonally adjusted)	Index Numbers (Seasonally adjusted)
Imports	142	158	111	158	158
Exports	(146)	(162)	(112)	(143)	(143)
Terms of trade	(146)	(160)	(110)	(206)	(206)
1972 July	152	161	106	198	198
August	157	163	104	187	187
September	160	165	103	192	192
October	165	166	101	181	181
November	169	168	99	205	205
December	173	171	99	184	184
1973 January	179	172	98	204	204
February	182	174	95	186	186
March	187	178	94	189	189
April	187	178	94	189	189
May	187	178	94	189	189
June	187	178	94	189	189
July	187	178	94	189	189
Percentage change	—	—	—	—	—

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.

Plastics producers attack price policy

BY MICHAEL SIMMONS

REPRESENTATIVES of Britain's plastics materials producers and processors have told the Government that its current price policies are crippling the industry and that U.K. producers have reached a situation where they can no longer compete for increasingly costly raw materials. These points have emerged from top-level talks held recently between the British Plastics Federation, which claims to speak for an industry with a turnover of some £1,500m. a year, and officials of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Federation statement, published last night, said its delegation had emphasised that the British industry could not remain competitive in the world market while U.K. prices were kept at their present level.

The statement indicated that because the industry could not compete for raw materials, it was also not able to initiate new investment.

It added: "Because of the time involved in constructing or commissioning new plants urgent action is needed unless the U.K. is to become increasingly dependent on imported polymers and to withdraw from export markets."

The DTI reaction to this diagnosis of the current situation, is understood, was that it would very much be borne in mind.

Clearly it will have to be taken into account by the Government officials now considering the special pleading from a number industry of the bigger chemical companies which are still seeking permis-

sion from the Price Commission to raise the prices of certain of their products, often including plastics.

Many of the materials producers in recent years have seen what they regard as unsatisfactory returns on capital.

The Federation delegates to the DTI based their plea for higher prices partly on the fact that confidence, despite the difficulties, was returning to the industry with the increased buoyancy that was apparent in the economy.

Most postal rates increase from September 10th 1973



First Class letters up to 2oz-3½p. (½p increase)

Second Class letters up to 2oz-3p. (½p increase)

Most postal rates increase from September 10th. The changes will affect both Inland and Overseas postal charges.

The table below shows the new Inland rates. There are comprehensive details on all rates for Inland, Overseas and Forces Mail in three leaflets available from all Post Offices. These changes have been approved by the Price Commission.

Inland letters			Inland parcels		
Weight not over	First Class	Second Class	Weight not over	Rate	
2 oz	3½p	3p	1 lb	20p	
4 oz	5p	4p	2 lb	22p	
6 oz	8p	5½p	4 lb	27p	
8 oz	10p	7p	6 lb	32p	
10 oz	12p	8½p	8 lb	37p	
12 oz	14p	10p	10 lb	42p	
14 oz	16p	11½p	14 lb	52p	
1 lb 0 oz	18p	13p	18 lb	62p	
1 lb 8 oz	27p	18½p max.	22 lb	72p	
2 lb 0 oz	36p				
each additional ½ lb	9p				

The Post Office

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FIRE ALARMS

N. Ireland hopes for Japanese investment

By Rhys David

THE NORTHERN Ireland Ministry of Commerce will follow up the visit by a team of Japanese industrialists to the province in May with a series of exchanges.

Some of the province's hopes for future investment are being pinned on pressures being put on Japanese industry to set up plants abroad.

Northern Ireland has just appointed as its industrial development representative Mr. T. Teshima, a Japanese national and former vice-president of Sanyo Trading, who is now in management consultancy.

Representatives of the province will be included in a U.K. team which will take part in a three-day workshop organised by the Government-sponsored Japan Industrial Location Centre.

After the seminar a separate hearing will be given to Northern Ireland's case.

ART GALLERIES

WATERLOO FINE ART, The Arcade, Britannia Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1.

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Helen Bradley, L. S. Lorry, Sir W. Russell Flint, A. J. G. Rea, P. C. C. Rea, etc., etc.

Vered Selection also. 10.0-10.0 p.m. Daily 10.0-10.0 p.m.

ALAN GALLERY Major Exhibition of Sculpture, "BRONZE SILVER & GOLD" by artists from Australia, Africa, America, Asia, Europe, etc., etc.

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WORTHINGTON, KOKOSCHKA, ROUAT, etc., etc.

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ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS (U.K.) NIMPHON, R.A. Sculptor. Admission 50p (Monday 20p). Students and pensioners half price. Weekdays 10-6. Sundays 12-6.

EXHIBITIONS

INTERNATIONAL ART TREASURES EXHIBITION 100 Years of Art. 10.0-6.0 p.m. 2.00. Closing Saturday, September 8.

China Clay employers appeal Government over pay rise bar

BY JOHN WYLES, LABOUR STAFF

CHINA CLAY employers have appealed to the Government to overrule a Pay Board order prohibiting payments above the £1 plus 4 per cent. limit for 9,000 China clay workers.

Mr. Ron Nethercott, South West Regional Officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday that the employers had given an assurance that they would ignore the order issued last Friday, and pay the forbidden increases, if the Government turned down their appeal.

This could leave the employers open to the first prosecution under the Counter-Inflation Act, if the Attorney-General decided to take court proceedings.

Penalties under the Act range from £400 on summary conviction to an unspecified amount on conviction on indictment.

A spokesman for English and officials in Cornwall. The

headquarters of English Clays, which owns nine of the 14 companies covered by the Order, was unable to confirm yesterday whether the increases would continue to be paid. "But we have assured the unions that we will continue to press for the right to pay the increases," he said.

Flying businessmen want their own London airport

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE NEED for a separate airport for the London area totally voted to the growing requirements of business aviation was phrased yesterday by senior businessmen at the Business Aircraft Users' Association conference at Cranfield Institute of Technology.

More flights

Mr. Angus Mackenzie-Charrington, a director of BAA, said that the U.K. business aircraft fleet had now reached 100 aircraft, including 34 and valued at around

The growth of business aviation was also illustrated yesterday by British Aviation Authority figures which showed that general aviation accounted for over 55,000 aircraft movements at the Authority's five main airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Prestwick and Edinburgh) last year, out of a total of 528,516 aircraft movements.

Mr. Mackenzie-Charrington said that the total turnover of the industrial members of the Business Aircraft Users' Association alone was over £14,000m a year, while his own company's turnover matched that of BOAC and BEA combined.

Business aircraft claim

the commercial brains of this country and bringing in the overseas customers who make our economy thrive and expand, must not be crushed under the tramping Jumbos filled with tourists.

"Business aircraft claim a

proper place in the 'third dimension'. The two essentials to their continued effective use in this country are an 'interlining' facility as of right at all the terminals of the British Airports Authority and a business aircraft terminal close to London.

"Freedom of the air serves no purpose unless there are ground facilities to handle the aircraft, the passengers and the crews."

Agreeing with these comments, Sir Philip Oppenheimer said that the trend is now for the major airports to set aside a special area for business aircraft and these have their own terminals and facilities. Good examples of such terminals were Le Bourget, Milan, Brussels, Dusseldorf and Geneva.

"Coming near home, I regret to say that we do not provide equivalent facilities in the London area. There is, admittedly, a fine General Aviation Terminal at Gatwick, but it has no servicing facilities."

"At Heathrow, there are full servicing facilities on the south side of the airport but, absurdly enough, all international departures or arrivals have to be made from the Central Area."

"As the situation at Heathrow is likely to become even more congested, the answer would seem to be the establishment of an airfield near London for the sole use of business aircraft. The requirement is pressing."

Call for combined operation to freeze prices of basic groceries

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

A SUGGESTION that the ten biggest grocery retail organisations, which account for 70 per cent of the business, should combine together to freeze the prices of leading grocery products was made yesterday by Mr. Mike Reynolds, managing director of Spar-Vivo.

Mr. Reynolds's idea is that the prices of a certain number of major items, such as tea, butter, flour, baked beans and toilet tissue should be fixed for a few months. If raw material prices rose during this period the retailers would absorb the extra expense, perhaps helping to balance their profit margins by increasing the prices of less

important grocery items. Mr. Reynolds sees the idea as very much a retailers' initiative. He feels that the retail trade has scarcely suffered during Phase Two but may find things difficult under Phase Three. Hence the initiative.

In each product category the retailers would agree to freeze the price of at least one of the leading brands. For example, in tea they would ensure that either PG Tips, Typhoo or Quick Brew would be on sale in their shops at a maximum price of 8p during the lifetime of the scheme. Heinz HP, or Crosse and Blackwell baked beans could be bought for a maximum price of 7p.

Since the retailers to-day control the level of prices in the shops, the manufacturers' operation in such a scheme is not essential, and obviously they would be reluctant to be seen to oppose an idea that stabilises prices.

The total shopping basket given as an example by Mr. Reynolds amounts to £2.75p and covers most of the basics bought regularly by housewives. Mr. Reynolds set out his ideas at a Press conference to launch a £500,000 promotion starting on Monday which involves free Disney pictures for any shopper spending more than 75p at any of Spar-Vivo's 2,400 shops.

City office shortage eases

BY PETER RIDDELL, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE AMOUNT of office space available in the City of London increased by about 30 per cent during August, but is still less than a third of the total at the end of last year.

According to figures produced by Richard Saunders and Partners, the City Agents, 987,000 sq. ft. of space was available in the City at the beginning of September, compared with 758,000 sq. ft. a month before and 738,000 sq. ft. at the beginning of July. The comparable figure last December was 3m. sq. ft.

The latest figures must be treated with some caution since the market is traditionally very quiet in August. It is therefore difficult to tell whether the apparent slight slow down in demand for offices and banking space, is merely due to seasonal influences or marks a change in the trend so far this year.

Since the available space at present is well under the totals before June this year, this will further support the property industry's view that there is a serious shortage of supply in the City which is mainly responsible for the large rent increases reported in certain buildings

recently. The current total of available space is equivalent to the stock of offices in the City.

The figures refer only to accommodation available on the open market and do not include properties not offered on the market or in course of construction or modernisation. They also include space available on short leases prior to redevelopment as well as certain mixed use buildings. This is because the figures include all the EC postal districts, W.C.1 and W.C.2, S.E.1 and E.1, which is a much larger area than the main City office district.

مكتبة من الصحف

JERSEY KNITTING

The Financial Times will publish a Survey of Jersey Knitting in its issue of Thursday, 13th September, 1973. The following indicates the proposed editorial content:—

- 1. Introduction**
The rapid growth rate in recent years; the acknowledged potential. Jersey knitting's share in the current textile boom. The room for an improved share is explored, with an eye to investment trends and future economic and product developments.
- 2. Machinery Developments**
Electronics have opened up many exciting prospects in the knitting field, both in production control and in speeding design processes. A review of the wide choice of systems will also consider the most important recent developments in conventional equipment.
- 3. Menswear**
Steady progress is being made in one of the largest markets still to be conquered by jersey fabrics, menswear. A review of the market penetration already achieved in suits, jackets, trousers and shirts, and marketing plans for 1974.
- 4. Fabric and Fibre Trends**
The opportunities for jersey fabrics are continually being expanded through the introduction of new yarns, such as blends, and new techniques, such as transfer printing. A look at some of the most important new techniques, now being harnessed or just around the corner.
- 5. Fashion**
Where will jersey fit into the fashion scene in coming seasons? The trend to lightweight constructions, and the prospects of new coat styles creating increased demand both look promising.
- 6. Home Furnishings**
This has always been an important market for knitted fabrics, both for stretch fabrics and curtains. An analysis of sales trends and new products. For further information and advertisement rates, please telephone 01-248 8000, ext. 7112.

Walker forecasts upturn in capital investment

BY PETER CARTWRIGHT

CAPITAL INVESTMENT second-quarter figures issued yesterday, which were down on January, would be transformed in the quarters by a very big turn "resulting from decisions taken by manufacturers," Peter Walker, Secretary for Trade and Industry, said. The statistics should be linked in surveys recently made by the Financial Times and the Federation of British Industries, said Mr. Walker. An impressive number of companies were now making decisions for investment. The second-quarter figures really reflected decisions taken six to 12 months ago.

"We know from the surveys that investment has done over the past three months that there has been a whole mass of decisions taken to invest. Therefore for the remainder of the year and 1974 there will be a very big upturn."

Mr. Walker remained confident that new investment would be made. An 18-inch bronze figure of a leopards to support a 5 per cent.

growth of the economy, "and we hope to go ahead of that." Another factor in the equation was more effective use of existing investment. "There is considerable scope for this. Likewise, there are considerable possibilities for enlarging the labour force from among women."

Mr. Walker was at Norton Aluminium Products, Norton Canes, Staffs., to commission £100,000 anti-pollution equipment for the 300-ton-a-week plant.

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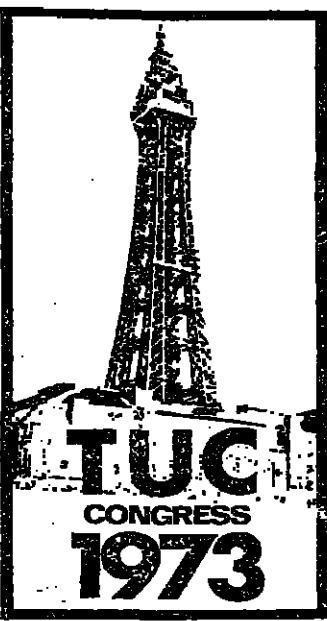
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Brett



By Noel Howell, Labour Reporter

Go-ahead for industrial protests over £10 pension

Tough line on women's rights

Unions to be strengthened in regions

Labour chairman calls for unity

MR. BILL SIMPSON, Labour Party chairman, warned his Parliamentary Party of the consequences of ignoring Labour conference decisions.

"The decisions made in Blackpool this week and in four weeks' time (when the Labour Party conference is held) will chart the course of our movement for many years ahead," Mr. Simpson told Congress.

"The reactions of the Parliamentary Labour Party to the decisions of the Labour Party conference are particularly important."

"For a Parliamentary Labour Party, attitudes ignoring important conference decisions could injure not only our chances of success at the polls but also disrupt the unity of the movement — so carefully built up during the last few years."

"Our task in the coming months is to see that such a conflict does not take place and that in the run-up to the election, we face the people as a united party with relevant socialist policies to solve the economic and social problems of our country."

Mr. Simpson, General Secretary of the fountry section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, added: "An essential ingredient for a more prosperous Britain is effective public control over the sectors of industry which hold the key to economic growth."

Mr. Simpson brought fraternal greetings to the Congress from the Labour Party.

THE TUC called on the Government to increase the number of statutory public holidays, bringing Britain into line with other EEC countries.

It declared that New Year's Day (Boxing Day in Scotland) and May Day should be bank holidays from next year.

Mr. Jack Morris, general secretary of the Customs and Excise Group, declared: "The demand for more leisure is part and parcel of our fight for decent living standards."

He suggested the TUC should see what was happening on the Continent. In the public holidays league the U.K., with six days a year, was at the bottom. Italy with 17 was in the lead.

He said his union would be willing to substitute Mr. Vic Feather's birthday for The Queen's as a public holiday.

THE TRADES Union Congress today authorised a stepping up of its campaign for higher pensions by giving the go-ahead to the General Council to lead "industrial protest action."

Delegates unanimously endorsed a Transport and General Workers' Union resolution authorising TUC-led action in support of the demand for a £10 a week pension for a single person and £16 for a pensioner couple.

The major note of caution during the important pensions debate came from the Union of Post Office Workers which gave a warning that if its members—who pay out pensions at post offices—were called out on strike, the pensioners themselves could suffer.

The UPW, however, withdrew an amendment which would have dropped the call for TUC-led action after being given an assurance that the General Council would consider the "nature and extent" of action when the need arose.

The UPW made provisions for the paying out of pensions during its marathon strike in 1971 and exceptions might again be made under a TUC-led campaign.

"We are not silly people. We are asking for leadership from the general council, a responsible body," said Mr. Jack Jones, TGWU general secretary.

'No delay'

Mr. Jones has been at the forefront of the campaign within the TUC in recent years for improved pensions and to-day moved the militant pensions resolution.

"This is a plea for tough action on behalf of the submerged sixth of the population—the old-age pensioner," he said. "We can delay no longer."

"Action and a firmer, stronger approach is needed because for the majority of pensioners to be old in Britain is to be poor."

The £10 and £16 a week pension demand is only the first step in the TUC's pension claim. The ultimate goal of the motion accepted to-day is to link the level of pensions to average earnings and to increases in retail prices through annual and quarterly reviews.

The Government and ask them to issue a leaflet to all old-age pensioners telling them of the range of benefits available to them.

"If we are seriously on the side of the pensioner and our efforts at persuasion fail then we must show our determination and the solidarity working people feel for the pensioner by using the strongest weapon we have available—industrial protest action," Mr. Jones said.

Mr. Jones said they expected their immediate demands—the £10 and £16 pension levels—to be met by the Government not later than next spring. "The proposals are modest—the nation can afford to meet them."

Protests

Mr. Peter Prendergast, of the National Union of Railway and Knitwear Workers said his union was opening all its district offices to old age pensioners so that officials could help and advise them on their entitlements.

Mr. Norman Stagg, assistant general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, moved the amendment to delete the call for the TUC to lead industrial action.

Mr. Stagg said: "In the wave of righteous indignation that resolutions of this kind are bound to provoke, we hope Congress will not be projected into a situation which will cause it to inflict further hardship on those it is our duty to help."

There were protests in the hall



On the platform, Mr. Hugh Scanlon, engineering workers' leader (left) and Mr. Joe Crawford, TUC president.

as Mr. Stagg said some strikes would cause suffering to old age pensioners.

The way to secure better pensions was to gather the TUC's industrial strength to secure a return at the earliest possible moment of a Labour Government.

For the General Council, Mr. Walter Anderson said they must not give any impression that Congress was half hearted in its support for pensioners. The motion called for leadership, and the council would consider the nature and extent of industrial protest action which might be required in the circumstances.

The council certainly accepted that responsibility. He urged Congress to reject the amendment and support the motion.

Mr. Stagg then said in view of the assurances given by Mr. Anderson he would withdraw the amendment. The motion was carried unanimously on a show of hands.

Congress then unanimously passed a motion urging the adoption — by an incoming Labour Government — of a comprehensive pensions programme.

This should include an overall scale of pension sufficient to ensure that retirement meant increase enjoyment of leisure for all people.

It declared that pensions must be regarded as a form of deferred income and therefore a right and not State charity.

The motion called for a more flexible retirement age and declared that there should be educational training and recreational activities to enable people to adjust smoothly to the new life style.

Moving the motion, Mr. Dennis Howell, MP, representing the Association of Professional, Executive Clerical and Computer Staff, said there should be an immediate reduction in the retirement age to 63. He called for increased building of homes for old aged people who wished to move into smaller accommodation.

There should be instructions to local authorities for the provision of free transport for the elderly.

After the expulsions

BY ROY ROGERS, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

A FORECAST that few of the 20 unions expelled from the TUC this week will survive without the TUC's membership protection agreements has been made by Mr. Clive Jenkins, General Secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

As reported in yesterday's Financial Times Mr. Jenkins is poised to announce a major breakthrough into the banking industry where leaders of the Midland Bank Staff Association are recommending a merger with the ASTMS.

Yesterday Mr. Leif Mills, General Secretary of the National Union of Bank Employees, which was among the 20 unions expelled from the TUC for remaining registered under the Industrial Relations Act, accused Midland staff association leaders

of a "secret sell-out" to the ASTMS.

However, Mr. Mills declared himself pleased with the initial reaction of Midland Bank staff and said the NUBE expected a boost in membership from staff association members who will not wish to join a "politically oriented body."

Mr. Murray, who has been assistant general secretary under Mr. Feather for the past four years, had been nominated by 29 unions and was elected unopposed.

Among the new faces on the TUC General Council as a result of to-day's elections will be Mr. Joe Gormley, the miners' president, and Mr. Ray Buckton, the train drivers' general secretary.

Altogether, five new General Council members were elected to-day to fill vacancies caused by retirement, but they indicate no dramatic shift in the political balance of the General Council.

The other newcomers are Mr. Geoffrey Drain, the new general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association; Mr. Glyn Lloyd, executive member of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians; and Mr. Jack Eccles, the Lancashire regional secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

There were no upsets for sitting general council members though leading pro-Common Market supporter Mr. Roy Grahame, the Clerical Workers' leader, had a slim majority—defeating the Left-backed Mr. John Morton, of the Musicians Union, by just over 600,000 votes.

In the women worker's section, Miss Audrey Frims of NALGO had a majority of just over 1m. in retaining her seat on the general council.

The general council election results in full are:

Executive Clerical and Computer Staff, said there should be an immediate reduction in the retirement age to 63. He called for increased building of homes for old aged people who wished to move into smaller accommodation.

There should be instructions to local authorities for the provision of free transport for the elderly.

Defeated

The reference back move—supported by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers—was, however, heavily defeated.

"The proposals are designed to give the movement a greater impact in the regions and to bring more people into their activities," Mr. Vic Feather, retiring TUC general secretary, told delegates.

The general council want more full-time and voluntary union officials to be involved in the TUC's regional work and to end the separation which can occur between the trades councils structure and the TUC's regional organisation.

First of the new regional councils to be set up is expected to be the Wales Trades Union Council early next year.

Campaigns

Initially, the councils, which will hold regular meetings, will have part-time secretaries but the general council has agreed to review the possibility of appointing full-time secretaries next year.

The TUC has estimated that the years

Appeal

Mr. Dixon appealed to Congress to defer its decision on the reorganisation to allow more discussion on the proposal.

Mr. Dai Francis, secretary of the South Wales Miners, told delegates that pressure behind the unofficial moves last year and earlier this year to set up a Wales TUC had come from the grass roots membership in Wales.

Welsh unions will now work to make the new TUC regional council for Wales a success, however. "We have no intention of going outside the British TUC," Mr. Francis said.

There is already an autonomous Scottish TUC which has been in existence for many years.

Kodak fight 'could be long and bitter'

A WARNING that the fight for the recognition of outside trade unions at Kodak could be "a raging contest" long and bitter one was given to-day by Mr. Alan Sapper, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians.

Kodak was accused by Mr. Sapper of resisting the recognition of outside trade unions for nearly 30 years.

He thanked the General Council for its moves to try and negotiate recognition for its affiliated unions at Kodak.

Talks are deadlocked with the TUC insisting that Kodak negotiates directly with the outside unions and the company insisting that the TUC continues to act as union co-ordinator in the talks.

"In this latest endeavour by the General Council they

(Kodak) have treated the approaches with absolutely out-right contempt."

ACTT has the biggest affiliated membership at Kodak and its members in the film processing division at Henlow, Bedfordshire, have been staging industrial action for nearly two months in support of the union's recognition claim.

Mr. A. Powell, of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, which is also seeking recognition at Kodak, said his union was not prepared to meet "in any situation" representatives of the registered Union of Kodak Workers—the recognised "house" union.

He called for general trade union support and said: "If we beat Kodak, we will beat other massive employers who want to start some form of staff association."

Mr. Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

Buckton, Gormley on Council

THE ELECTION of Mr. Len Murray as the new TUC general secretary to succeed Mr. Vic Feather who retires this week, was confirmed at the Trades Union Congress to-day.

Mr. Murray, who has been assistant general secretary under Mr. Feather for the past four years, had been nominated by 29 unions and was elected unopposed.

Among the new faces on the TUC General Council as a result of to-day's elections will be Mr. Joe Gormley, the miners' president, and Mr. Ray Buckton, the train drivers' general secretary.

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There were no upsets for sitting general council members though leading pro-Common Market supporter Mr. Roy Grahame, the Clerical Workers' leader, had a slim majority—defeating the Left-backed Mr. John Morton, of the Musicians Union, by just over 600,000 votes.

In the women worker's section, Miss Audrey Frims of NALGO had a majority of just over 1m. in retaining her seat on the general council.

The general council election results in full are:

Mining and quarrying group (two to be elected): Mr. L. Daly (National Union of Mineworkers) 8,958,000; Mr. J. Gormley (NUM) 8,958,000; Mr. L. Wernall (National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shot-firers) 1,223,000.

Railways group

Railways group (two to be elected): Mr. R. Buckton (Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen) 6,013,000; Sir Sidney Greene (National Union of Railwaymen) 8,988,000; Mr. D. Mackenzie (Transport Salaried Staff Association) 3,416,000.

Transport group, excluding railways (four to be elected): Mr. F. J. Howell (Transport and General Workers' Union) 8,008,000; Mr. J. L. Jones (TGWU) 8,734,000; Mr. J. Moore (United Road Transport Union) 1,200,000; Mr. J. Slater (Merchant Navy and Airline Officers) 9,184,000; Mr. H. Urwin (TGWU) 8,818,000.

In the shipbuilding group Mr. Danny McGarvey (Boilermakers Amalgamation) was re-elected unopposed.

In the engineering, founding and vehicle building section, Mr. J. Boyd, Mr. L. Edmondson and Mr. H. Scanlon of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Mr. L. Buck (National Union of Sheet Metal Workers) were elected unopposed, to the four seats.

In the technical engineering and scientific group Mr. G. Doughty (Technical and Supervisory section of the AUEW) was elected unopposed.

In the electricity group Mr.

F. Chapple (Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union) was returned unopposed.

Iron and Steel and Minor Metal Trades (one to be elected): Sir David Davies (Iron and Steel Trades Confederation) 8,723,000; Mr. R. Smith (National Union of Blastfurnacemen) 800,000.

Building, Woodworking and Furniture group (two to be elected): Mr. J. Lloyd (UCATT) 7,289,000; Mr. J. Jones (National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel) 8,478,000; Mr. W. Keys (Society of Graphical and Allied Trades) 1,066,000.

Textile group (one to be elected): Mr. F. Dwyer (National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers) 1,185,000; Mr. J. King (Textile and Allied Workers Union) 7,877,000.

Clothing, Leather and Boot and Shoe group (one to be elected): Mr. R. Comerford (Footwear, Leather and Allied Trades) 7,289,000; Mr. G. Smith (UCATT) 8,599,000; Mr. C. Stewart (Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union) 1,817,000.

94,000; Mr. J. Macgougan (Tailors and Garment Workers) 3,787,000; Mr. P. Pendergast (Hosiery and Knitwear Workers) 144,000.

Food, Drink and Distribution Group (two to be elected): Mr. A. Allen (Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers) 2,263,000; Mr. C. Grieve (Tobacco Workers Union) 8,187,000; Mr. T. Parker (National League of the Blind) 938,000.

This election confirms Mr. Grieve's earlier co-option on to the general council.

In the Agriculture group Mr. R. Bottall (National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers) was returned unopposed.

In the Public Employees group Mr. E. Britton (National Union of Teachers), Mr. G. Drain (NALGO), Mr. A. Fisher (National Union of Public Employees), and Mr. T. Parry (Fire Brigades Union) were returned unopposed for the four seats.

Civil Servants

Civil Servants group (two to be elected): Mr. T. Jackson (Union of Post Office Workers) 6,882,000; Mr. W. Kendall (Civil and Public Services Association) 3,085,000; Mr. C. Plant (Inland Revenue Staff Federation) 7,073,000.

Professional, Clerical and Entertainment group (two to be elected): Mr. A. Bennett (Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs) 4,933,000; Mr. R. L. Keenan (Theatrical, Television, Kine Employees) 381,000; Mr. J. Morton (Musicians Union) 4,326,000; Mr. A. Sapper (Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians) 7,882,000.

General Workers group (three to be elected): Mr. D. Barnett, Mr. A. Donnet and Mr. J. Eccles (GMWU) were returned unopposed to the three seats.

Women Workers group (two to be elected): B. Dean (SOGAT) 544,000; C. Page (USDAW) 4,044,000; M. Patterson (TGWU) 7,888,000; A. Prime (NALGO) 5,310,000; E. D. Wilkinson (EPTU) 578,000.

Notes

(a) All turnover figures exclude Dexion-Battner GmbH; (b) Rates of exchange ruling at the accounting dates have been used, with the exception of German Marks and Austrian Schillings (DM 20: 4546.00), which were converted shortly after the end of the half year.

Highlights from Chairman's Statement

★ The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 0.28p per share (equivalent to a gross dividend of 4%) payable on 1st November 1973.

★ Group turnover is up 25% over the same period last year while profits increased two and a half times.

★ Improvement in the first half year is likely to be maintained in the second half with profits for the year exceeding the previous best year's profit level.

INTERIM STATEMENT



INTERIM STATEMENT

of Group results (unaudited) for the half year ended 30th April 1973 for Dexion-Comino International Limited and subsidiaries

	6 months 30th April 1973	6 months 30th April 1972	12 months 31st Oct. 1972
Turnover	20,000	14,861	33,212
Surplus on trading	1,057	532	1,263
Interest on loans	(193)	(180)	(393)
Share of profits (losses) of associated companies	844	352	870
Trading profit before tax	18	(1)	5
Tax—Group	882	351	875
Share of associated companies	(451)	(181)	(364)
Trading profit after tax	(2)	—	(2)
Trading profit after tax	429	170	509
Exchange rates—unrealised gains	357	31	(28)
Extraordinary items	—	(122)	(1,468)
Profit (Loss) after tax and extraordinary items	786	60	(937)
Appropriations: Preference dividends	(13)	(18)	(36)
Ordinary Dividends	—	—	—
Transfers to (from) reserves	676	42	(973)

NOTES
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Liverpool and Merseyside

Financial Times Survey

Under new management

by ROY HODSON, Regions Editor

Although more comedians are supposed to have been bred in Liverpool than in any other place, the joking has ceased—at least for the present. Merseyside is altogether a more serious and industrious district these days than the raffish, rather down-at-heel, shipping-iverside community with the fervent spirit which the festive set to music.

Instead of dreaming and ing about a new Jerusalem encompass Bootle, Everton, Garston, Birkenhead and Wallasey, the Merseysiders are their coats off. They are actually building it. Reconstruction and the replacement of that is worn-out or unsatisfactory, commerce, industry, the port, roads and tunnels, railways, amenities. Suddenly it is fashionable to provide something brand-new and make yet another contribution to the bewildering changes taking place.

A symbol of the new willingness to change is the radical surgery being applied to Liverpool's traditional waterfront by the dismantling of the floating landing stage. "Until recently," said one Liverpoolian "I swear there have been people around here believing that one day the sailing ships would come back."

The full extent of the change on Merseyside should be recognised. It goes far beyond physical reconstruction. More than a million people living around the river, and until recently largely dependent on it for existence, are wrenching themselves from the ways of a community based on ships and

trading and accepting a way of life based on industry.

Efforts to implant industry along Merseyside suffered a setback during the recent period of sluggish growth in the national economy. But confidence seems to have revived and the talk among industrialists in the area is now of expansion. There has been a strong business recovery in the past six months. Some 3,500 jobs are being created by new ventures and expansions already announced.

Capital injection

Before long, Ford, the biggest of the car-makers established on Merseyside in the past, announces a sizeable capital injection into its Halewood plant amounting to a five-year expansion programme. British Leyland is also expected to choose its Liverpool plant for increased sports car production. Plessey is expanding its large plant for the manufacture of telephone exchanges. Between Birkenhead and Wallasey there is a venture totally new to Merseysiders: a steel "mini-mill." Until now the nearest steelmaking facilities have been the Shotton Works just over the Welsh border.

Pilkingtons, Rockware Glass and Lever Brothers have all decided to go ahead with multi-million pound expansion programmes in the district. Shell has set in motion again some long-delayed expansion of its petrochemical plants up the Mersey. There are grounds for believing that there will be a major decision by another oil company to build new refining capacity on the Mersey before

long. There are inquiries for sites in the Mersey dock areas for new activities, including a food company, oil-rig servicing facilities for the Celtic Sea, and a metal smelter. Meanwhile Liverpool is busy developing a 165-acre industrial estate at Knowsley for companies wishing to take up "tailor-made" sites on Merseyside.

The growth in office employment has been steady rather than spectacular up to now. However, it is clear that Merseyside is going to need some new office buildings if the trend continues. Meanwhile, companies continue to take space in existing buildings — Barclaycard which will employ 120, in an expansion to its original Northampton facilities is a recent example. Current thinking about office development hinges upon how much former dockland becomes available as prime waterfront sites; and whether Merseyside can capture a big fish such as, perhaps, a government ministry.

Already the area is likely to get some 2,000 Civil Service jobs if the Whitehall dispersal plans are implemented. But major office schemes on the Mersey could accommodate many times that number in a riverside office "city."

The recently opened Merseyside Development Office in London (which is the first London representation on any scale by one of Britain's assisted areas), has clearly had some success during its first months in getting across to business in other parts of Britain and abroad that Merseyside is one of the few parts of Britain where there are still



comparatively large numbers of people looking for jobs in a compact urban area.

Unemployment has fallen by more than 8,000 but is still too high at around the 40,000 mark. To strike a note of caution to interested industrialists, however, some skilled labour is in short supply and the number of unfilled vacancies is rising.

Merseyside is at a cross-roads in its fortunes. At such a time the methods used to prepare for the future and the man responsible for jobs in a sible for the methods are more than usually important. So the national reform of local government taking place within the next year chimes well with the local mood for change.

Morning commuter traffic arriving in Liverpool through the Mersey Tunnel

have been involved. But from next April the Merseyside Metropolitan County will be in existence. It will exercise a strong measure of guidance on the economic progress of Merseyside. Also it will be able to provide the first overall management of the social and the environmental problems that still press so heavily upon many of the 1.7m. people who will be living within the boundaries of the new county.

The county is interested in acquiring as its headquarters the elegant old Docks Board offices at Liverpool's Pierhead from the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. The new county must provide physical evidence of its presence if people are to believe in it, so already evidence that the argument runs. And where better than in one of Merseyside's best-known buildings? The birth of the new county

also symbolises the fundamental changes Merseyside is experiencing in thinking and attitudes. The old political alignments quite broke down during the spring elections. The new Merseyside, while Labour-controlled, is by no means dominated by Merseyside itself, meanwhile, astounded most of us by voting a Liberal council into power for the new Liverpool district.

Local support

Confidence is returning to Merseyside as quickly as it drained out during those depressed years. There is already evidence that the area is anxious to flex its muscles. In particular there is dissatisfaction with the traditional Whitehall habit of managing

the affairs of the North West through Manchester, where the regional government departments are centred.

When Merseyside businessmen recently met Mr. Christopher Chataway, Minister for Industrial Development, some pressed for Merseyside to be considered as a separate region to the North West. The idea is attracting quite a lot of local support although Merseyside in its present form would hardly have the size and strength to rank with the existing regions and thus could even suffer from such a move. Looking further ahead to the eventual building of the River Dee barrage some people are already proposing that the most logical development would be the creation of a Merseyside and North Wales economic region. What would the Welsh Office say to that?

Get the best of both worlds - on Merseyside.

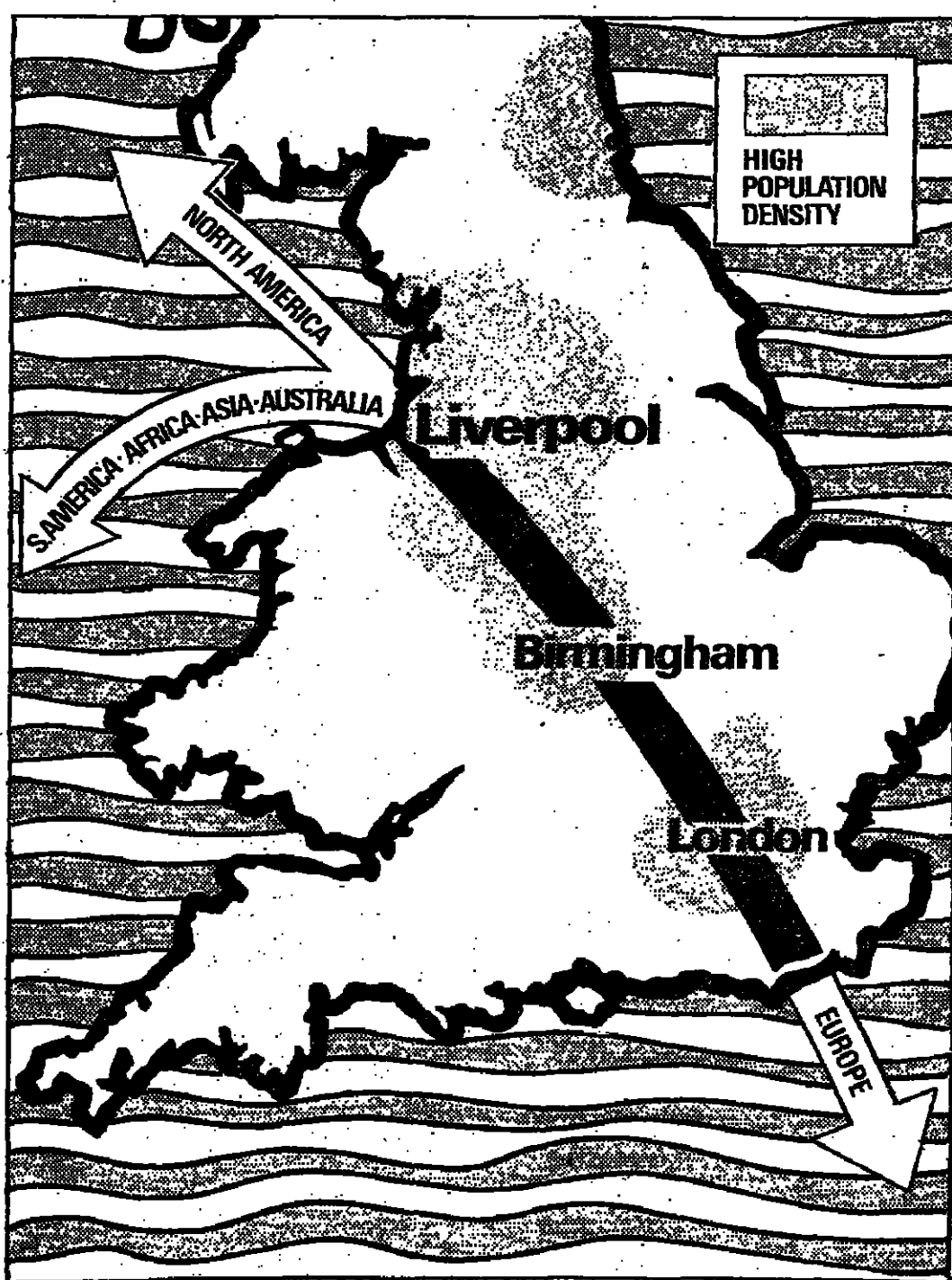
Merseyside is at the beginning of Britain's trade corridor. The main U.K. market runs from the dynamic North West region through Birmingham to London. This makes the Liverpool area the natural centre of gravity for major new industrial and commercial investment seeking outlets outside congested London and Birmingham.

It explains why the giant exporting companies have panning bases in Merseyside: BRITISH LEYLAND, ICI, UNILEVER, FORD, GEC, COURTAULDS, BP, MASSEY FERGUSON, PLESSEYS, DISTILLERS, GENERAL MOTORS, BICC, RANK AND PILKINGTONS. The port of Liverpool is the gateway to the American markets and an entry point for Europe's raw materials.

Merseyside is the only Development Area which offers you the best of both worlds. It offers your company maximum Government cash incentives. It's only two and a half hours by Pullman from dear, crowded old London. Labour, materials and markets are here on your doorstep.

NEW GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES
A move to Merseyside can mean a cash removal grant of £800 per office worker from the government. What's more, there's a concessionary rent-free period for office accommodation.

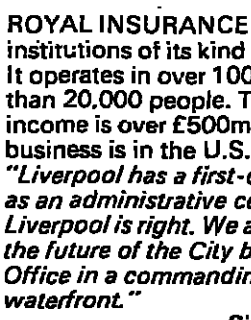
BEATING THE CONGESTION TAX
It's a natural centre for office expansion. Its strategic position of Liverpool explains the success of commercial companies like the Royal Insurance and Littlewoods. Why search for staff in London (likely to be faced with a Common Market congestion tax) when office costs in Merseyside are 300 per worker less? Why risk opening up in a remote area, away from the main markets, adding thousands of pounds to your transportation costs? Find out more about how a move to Merseyside give you the best of both worlds.



PROFILES IN SUCCESS



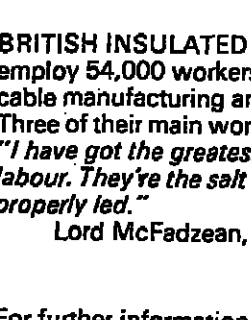
LITTLEWOODS is one of the largest retailing organisations in Britain, and the largest Pools organisation in the world. With a turnover in excess of £300m, 10,000 of its 36,000 employees work in Liverpool, where the business was founded in 1924. "I built up my business with Liverpool people. I would unhesitatingly recommend Merseyside as a good place for office and manufacturing development. We recruit 80 per cent of our executives locally." John Moores, C.B.E., Chairman.



ROYAL INSURANCE is one of the largest institutions of its kind in the world. It operates in over 100 countries, employing more than 20,000 people. The Royal's annual premium income is over £500m. Nearly half of the company business is in the U.S. "Liverpool has a first-class chance of developing as an administrative centre. Geographically Liverpool is right. We are showing our faith in the future of the City by building our UK Head Office in a commanding position on the waterfront." Sir Paul Chambers, Chairman.



PILKINGTON BROTHERS are one of the world's largest glass manufacturers. Headquarters of the company, which employs over 30,000 workers, are in Merseyside. "Pilkington Brothers and its subsidiaries have already a very heavy investment in the Merseyside area and, in particular, in St. Helens. Investment here during the last ten years has been abnormally heavy to cope with technological change and new opportunities. I expect us to continue to be heavy spenders here for many years." Lord Pilkington, Chairman.



BRITISH INSULATED CABLES employ 54,000 workers throughout the world in cable manufacturing and electrical engineering. Three of their main works are in Merseyside. "I have got the greatest confidence in North West labour. They're the salt of the earth if they're properly led." Lord McFadzean, retiring Chairman of BICC.

For further information on sites, offices and factories, get in touch with either Merseyside Development Office, 5 Chancery Lane, London WC2 Tel: 01-405 0488 or, James S. Gorle Esq., Industrial Development Officer, PO Box 148, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool L69 2DJ Tel: 051-227 3911

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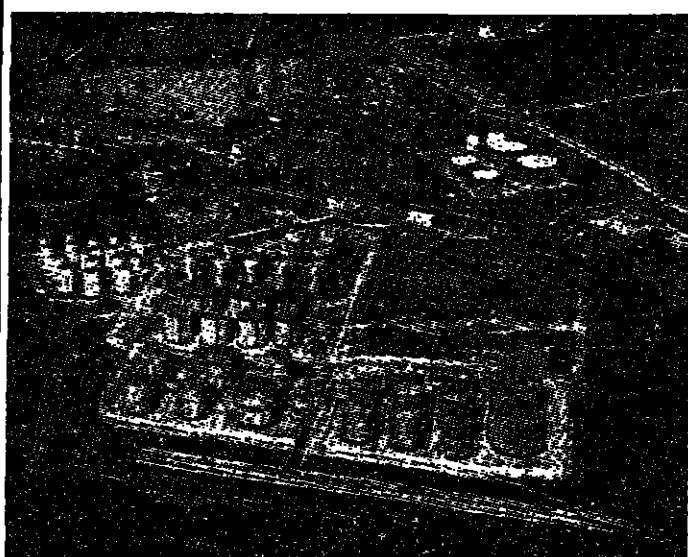
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LIVERPOOL AND MERSEYSIDE II

Industry emerges from shadow

By IAN GRONBACK

While it is too soon to claim that industrial development on Merseyside has achieved a breakthrough, there are many encouraging signs. The financial crisis which hit the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board three years ago, the problems in the shipbuilding and shiprepairing industry, and severe rationalisation of companies like English Electric, all took a heavy toll. When related to the high unemployment figures, to the image of bad industrial relations, and to comments by Jeremiah that in relation to British entry into Europe Merseyside was facing the wrong way, the area was in serious danger of developing an outside inferiority complex that could have done lasting damage.

Sadly, the port crisis and the appalling record of strikes in the docks, which extended into other sections of transportation two to three years ago, cast a shadow over the whole industrial scene. For although Liverpool Corporation since the 1930s has pursued a policy of diversification and of developing industry not dependent on the port, there is, and probably always will be, an inter-relationship. That shadow is now beginning to lift, thanks to the energies of the local authorities, to the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the trade unions, who recognised the symptoms and are doing something about it.

Bold move

The appointment of an industrial development officer for the region was a bold move to harness energies in "selling" Merseyside and providing a focal point where both industrial and commercial firms could obtain information on sites and offices available and on the wide range of grants available to firms moving into the development area. This year, Merseyside became the first region of the country to set up a development office in London—an embassy to promote the interests of Merseyside nationally and internationally.

Mr. James Gorie, the industrial development officer, a Scot who takes a sanguine view of Merseyside's problems, said: "I am very much more optimistic than at any time since I came here. There has been a fantastic change for the better in the general approach to Merseyside, overtures." There are something like 3,000 new jobs potentially in the pipeline. He said he now sees clear signs of economic recovery, with significant expansion by large

firms in the Liverpool area. These include Ford, British Leyland (300 men), Hygena (350), English Electric, Barker and Dobson, Tavenor Routledge, Courtaulds and Birds Eye.

Most of the big factories have much healthier order books, which has taken up the slack in both manpower and plant capacity. Although it is a little soon to make announcements, a number of big concerns have expansion plans that should come to fruition in the next few months.

Under the impetus of repeated prodding from local politicians and MPs, the Government finally recognised that a region showing an ability to help itself should perhaps receive a new kind of encouragement.

Mr. Christopher Chataway, Minister of Industrial Development, came to Liverpool in July to preside over a conference, "Marketing Merseyside", attended by leaders of management, trade unions and local government. Major decisions of the conference were that the three sections should set up a joint team to travel throughout Britain and overseas, as required, to sell Merseyside as a region in which to invest. At the same time a reception committee would be set up, to be at the service of potential investors visiting the area.

While rejecting calls for Merseyside to be recognised as a region separate from the rest of the North-West on the grounds that it would be small and vulnerable to a sense of isolation, he promised that Merseyside would continue to be treated as a priority area.

That conference, too, was notable for one of the sharpest rebukes yet for critics of Merseyside labour. Mr. Charles Skinner, operations manager at the Ford Motor Company factory at Halewood, said the area's unfortunate reputation for industrial strikes must be corrected. The area was misunderstood. "Merseyside workers are second to none. They have minds of their own, a great sense of humour and a strongly developed loyalty to their workmates," he said. "To understand these men and women, people must come to Merseyside and find out what they are like for themselves."

Ford, one of the biggest newcomers to Merseyside, has an achievement record that speaks for itself. In ten years the Halewood factory has produced 2m. cars as well as 400,000 knocked-down units for

assembly overseas. About 5400m-worth of business had been exported. Last year alone the factory produced 246,000 Escorts and Capris.

The Halewood factory has been expanded progressively and there is every indication that this trend will continue. This has been one of the most encouraging features since the motor car industry became firmly established on Merseyside. Standard-Triumph also has plans for the further development of its Speke Hall Road site.

One of the surprising features is that relatively few component and accessory firms have so far followed the major manufacturers to the area. A.C. Deko Division of General Motors has had a factory at Kirkby since before the motor industry boom. One of the new comers is Cross International, which specialises in machine tools for the industry. It opened a £1.5m. plant at Kirkby in 1970 and now employs over 200.

For some of the smaller engineering companies, the motor car industry has replaced shipbuilding and ship repair as a major source of sub-contract work. But shipbuilding itself is showing a significant recovery. Cammell Laird Shipbuilders of Birkenhead is about to embark

on a £20m. modernisation scheme for the yard which includes development of the biggest covered ship factory in Europe. It should be in full production by 1976.

This company encountered some of the problems typical of those confronting traditional industries in the area. Mr. J. Graham Day, chief executive, recently admitted that when shipbuilding activities came under the direction of the new company they were in the position of having inherited a plant which was "virtually a piece of scrap."

Labour relations

The company set about making the best of the order book it had and produced enough evidence to convince the principal shareholders — the Government and the Laird Group — that the potential was there, that investment was justified. From an image of poor labour relations and late deliveries the yard has developed a reputation for delivering ships on time and labour relations, although not completely out of the wood, are certainly much improved.

Faced with the loss of orders for warships for the Royal Navy, the company developed stand-

ard ranges of product carriers and tankers and orders and potential orders for these ships have already justified the design work that went into the project, which coupled with other orders, ensures a full workload during the modernisation period.

Ship repair engineers are still having a tough time but typical of the resourcefulness of smaller firms G.B.S. Engineering Company, of Liverpool, has brought a new industry to the region — the building of fishing vessels. In collaboration with Bute Ship Dock Company it has secured a contract to build two multi-purpose fishing vessels for East of Scotland owners.

Another indication of resourcefulness is the plan for Britain's first pollution-free industrial estate at Knowsley. Environmental Resources is carrying out a £3,000 feasibility study for the scheme and has named eight industries that might be suitable for the estate — food and food processing, metal finishing, paper processing and products, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, tanneries, cosmetics and packaging.

Under the scheme Liverpool Corporation would provide facilities for solid and liquid waste disposal, water cooling and possibly the recovery of

materials which each firm ing to the site would share. Another imaginative idea is for a "food city" to be developed around the extensive stores of Frigoscandia at Simonswood, and also a plan to develop port-related tries to replace those animal feedstuffs and turners who have been a local mills and transfer inland areas.

Until the early part of year, new developments new expansion of existing barely offset losses the closure and rationalisation, there are signs that new loyalties mean real expansion. Apart from 3,500 new actually in the pipeline, John Price, director of region's development office in London, reports firm expansion from companies which result in projects employing to 4,000 people.

With considerable increase in the way of regional development grants, selective assistance, grants for industries and help towards cost of training and transport as regional employment premiums, and the improving situation in a perspective, Merseyside attracting more interest potential developers.

Local government

By DEBORAH WAROFF

"Yes, the lines for the Merseyside Metropolitan County have been too tightly drawn. But that is history. Our job now is to make it work." Stanley Holmes, Town Clerk of Liverpool, declines to lament political misadventures that may have shaped the reorganisation of local government around the Mersey. On April 1 next year he will take office as head of the new Metropolitan County.

As a metropolitan county, the new Merseyside will have a two-tier government, with responsibilities shared between the Metropolitan and district authorities. The districts are Liverpool, Wirral, Knowsley, Sefton and St. Helens. Much of this is traditional "scouse" territory or Liverpool suburbia. County boundaries generally parallel closely the unofficial edges of the Merseyside conurbation.

The reorganisation of government has, however, substantially changed Liverpool's relationship to its overspill towns. Liverpoolians have partly populated Skelmersdale, Winsford, Ellesmere Port and Runcom. But the first will join with Lancashire and the others have been assigned to Cheshire. Now the new towns are interested in independent growth and are in effect competing with their parent for industry — in some instances with the unfair advantage of lower rates or cheaper land. Overall, the continuing trend is movement of industry and population towards and even beyond the outer edges of Merseyside.

Liverpool local government officials consulted by the central government with a view to reorganisation had originally recommended that Merseyside boundaries include Ellesmere Port. But this was not done. Skelmersdale and the parish of Hale, in Wirral, were at one time meant to join with Merseyside, but were hived off by a 1971 Parliamentary amendment. This amendment meant a drop of 23,000 in the Metropolitan County's population and a decrease of over £3.5m. in rateable value, according to 1971 census figures.

Highest priority

The highest priority for the new county is co-ordinated economic growth. The area has suffered heavy losses of industry over the past decade and the population is declining while unemployment remains obstinately high.

Mr. Holmes stresses that the new county cannot go it alone and must investigate lines of communication with other authorities.

But the first and most important line of communication will be among the five districts and the county, in order to settle on common objectives and common solutions to problems.

While the districts will be responsible for the management of industrial estates, overall responsibility for area development belongs to the county. A major part of the Metropolitan Authority's job will be to sell Merseyside.

Whatever lines have been drawn in Westminster, Liverpool remains the strong natural focal point for Merseyside. It is the centre for area employment and retailing, and a

natural leader among North-West towns. Flint turned to Liverpool for help in the fight to save its steel works. Showing similar fighting spirit, Liverpoolians went without invitation to Brussels in order to try to extract from the EEC maximum aid for British regions.

Liverpool has already begun marketing Merseyside. It is hoped that the larger Metropolitan County might make available more financial resources for promotion. But, meanwhile, Liverpool has taken the lead with its new Merseyside Development Office in London, experience in approaching investors, and support for industry in obtaining grants. Promotional strategy follows three tracks—making sites and services available to industry, improving and publicising the area's infrastructure, and selling people on "the civilised pattern of life" characteristic of Merseyside.

Last month the Liverpool Corporation published a glossy four-colour brochure entitled "Merseyside—Scene of Good Living." It is obviously aimed at allaying management's fears about an area more widely famed for its working class heroes than for its comfortable suburbs. The Merseyside area, planning a workable proposition, the brochure informs one, has 30 full-length golf courses and

local cricket leagues of significant standard.

The main site being forwarded for industrial development in the county is a 165-acre tract in the Knowsley district. Though located in Whiston, the site belongs to Liverpool. Ten acres have been let already, and 10,000 square feet of advance factory space will be made available.

Structure plan

Pinpointing of further sites for industry throughout the conurbation will have to wait for publication of the new Merseyside structure plan. A team of planners seconded from area local authorities has been working together for two years towards formulating such a plan. By April they expect to be ready to present the Metropolitan and district authorities with a clear idea of area problems and alternate solutions for consideration.

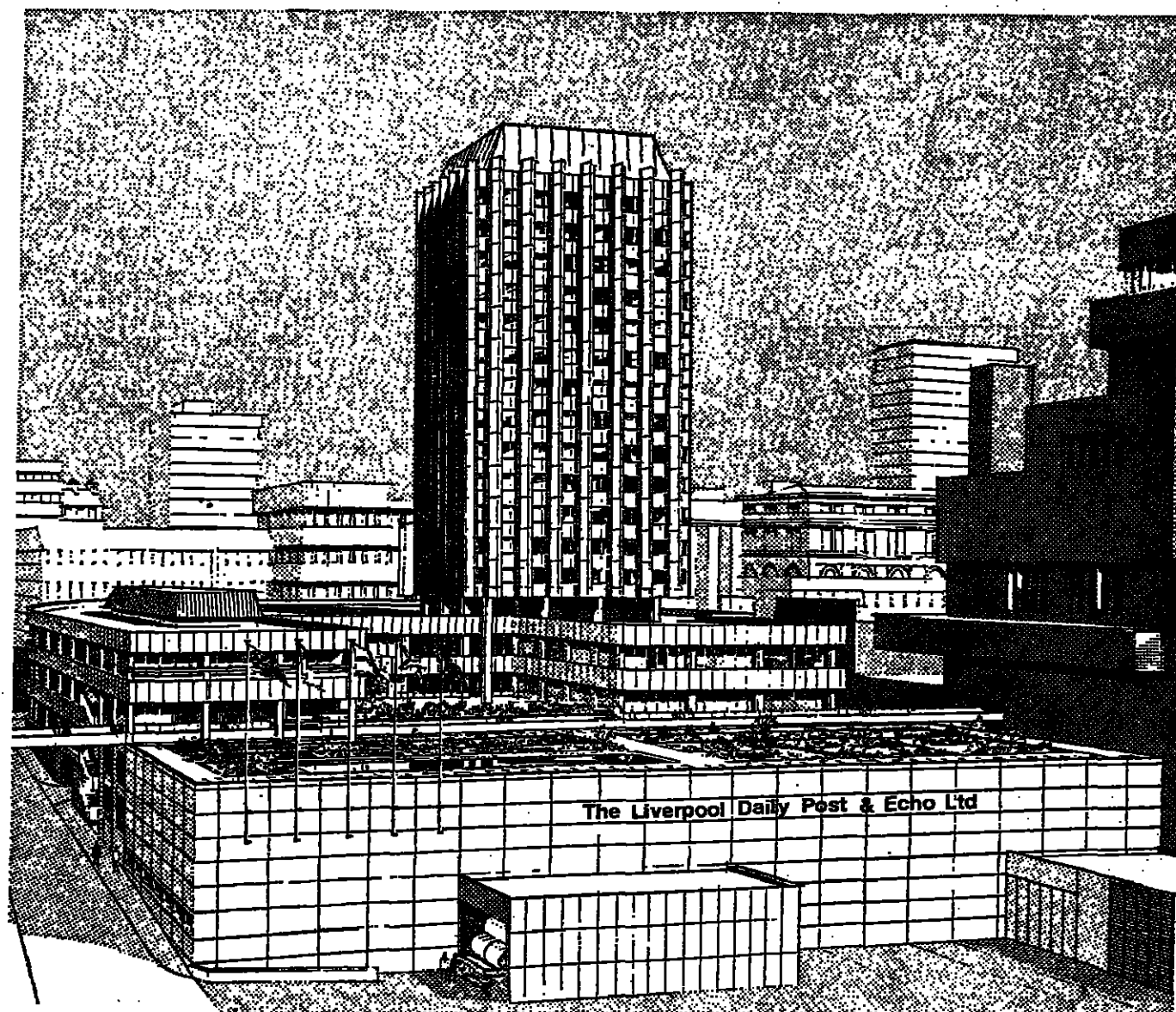
The planners' approach has been what the new county's chief planning officer, Miss A. M. Lees, terms "outward looking." The object of this sort of planning, she explained, is action. The team has tried admirably to make consultative, non-elitist plans while rural and urban areas of Cheshire and Lancashire have been reported very few

Wood, head of the structure plan group.

Towards this end, 100 organisations ranging from Chamber of Commerce and TUC through to the Friends of the Earth were asked to comment on a preliminary report designed to "focus on" aspects of Merseyside which for planning action, identify the main problems of the which the structure plan should help to remove.

In an effort to get away from pressure groups and out to man in the street, the plan also surveyed 2,000 households representing a cross-section of the Merseyside population. Local councillors, and older too, were questioned with a view to identifying specifically problems. And 12 consultants groups have been advising specialist topics like housing, finance, and industry.

The household surveys revealed vandalism as the frequently identified problem while unemployment is the problem most acutely felt by Councilors and aldermen. Frequently cited housing problems, followed by environment. Not surprisingly the inner Merseyside was seen to have the most problems while rural and urban areas of Cheshire and Lancashire have been reported very few



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مركز النظم

Recovery in the docks

By RAY DAFTER

Mersey Docks has spent the last three years slowly—and sinfully at times—putting itself back on its feet after the spectacular financial collapse which shelved the port one of the country's "lame ducks." With the Government refusing to give special assistance, the port has had to seek its own salvation; the extent of the changes that have taken place is an indication of just how bad things were in the docks.

Given a modicum of good fortune, Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, the body set up to take over control of the port from the former trust board, might have hoped for more positive signs of recovery at this stage. As it is, it still faces a long haul to profitability, stable labour relations and renewed confidence among its shipping and shipper customers.

Trading success

The £50m. Royal Seaford dock, which must hold the key to Liverpool's future trading success, has taken longer to commission than the dock company would have wished. Even the royal naming ceremony, performed by Princess Anne this summer, was overshadowed by the doubt as to whether a settlement could be reached with dockers over the manning of the new dock's timber terminal.

The terminal, through which Liverpool hopes to recapture much of the timber trade which it has lost to other U.K. ports, is at last in business. The first ship into the two-berth terminal in July carried a Russian cargo of 2,238 tons of pre-slung timber which dockers unloaded in 36 hours. This cargo-handling record of 66 tons an hour illustrates what the Liverpool dock can do, given the right conditions (both materially and in terms of labour relations).

The brittle nature of industrial relations in the Liverpool docks has been an aggravating factor, although not the cause, in many of the port's difficulties, manager since 1971.

Important steps have been taken to improve the situation. Last week it was announced that dockers will be given a chance to participate in the running of the port. Nevertheless, the new personnel director responsible for industrial relations is under no illusion that he has one of the toughest of all jobs in the docks.

The man, himself, Mr. Charles Fairfoot, seems unabashed at the prospect. As an executive who has risen through the ranks of British industry—he was once an engineering apprentice and a works convenor—Mr. Fairfoot knows a good deal about grass roots trade unionism. He also knows about the idiosyncracies of the dockers, for he looked after industrial relations in the British Transport Docks group for three years.

As he puts it, the Liverpool job is important both for Merseyside and the British economy generally. His philosophy is reflected in the remark: "From my experience, there are too many people in the docks who just sit in their offices and expect to solve their problems that way."

In both these comments Mr. Fairfoot sums up the changed attitude of Mersey Docks management. The managing director, George Brimyard, has on consultants advice built up a team around him with specific responsibilities. Besides industrial relations, marketing and the efficient operation of port services have been given greater emphasis.

The trio responsible for these activities were appointed as divisional executives at director level after one of the most remarkable recruiting campaigns seen in the port industry. Apart from Mr. Fairfoot it drew in Dr. Alan Salmon from the engineering industry, where he had held senior marketing positions and directorships, and Mr. William Thomas from ICI—he is the new port services director, although he had been seconded from the chemical giant as the port's development manager since 1971.

The reorganisation of the executive structure stems partly from the company's desire to sharpen its management edge and to improve its somewhat tarnished image of the past and, more immediately, to administer the very different company that has emerged in recent years. The acquisition of three stevedoring companies doubled the company's workforce to 10,000, for example, while also giving more control over what happens in the port as a whole.

The reorganisation has given Mersey Docks five divisions: operations, commercial, port services, personnel and finance. Mr. Brimyard continues as managing director and Mr. James Fitzpatrick stays as assistant managing director and head of the operations division. The port is still left with the task of appointing a finance director designate in preparation for the retirement of Mr. Hugh Wigglesworth in about 16 months.

Through the reorganisation of management, stevedoring, dock services and the move out of old, loss-making berths in the South Dock complex to more modern facilities downstream, the Mersey Docks Company can claim to have laid the foundation for a more efficient port.

As Mr. John Page, the company chairman, told stockholders at a boisterous annual meeting in June: "We trust that with the efforts we are making to improve the efficiency of the port we shall be able to attract more and more business and this is the continued objective of the management."

Considerable leeway

If this is so the management has considerable leeway to make up. The last annual report shows that tonnage has been falling steadily in the past five years, bar for a welcome hiccup in 1971 when, for a brief period, 54 per cent. of all journeys to the port seemed to be heading work in central Liverpool were for early recovery. In 1968, for example, Liverpool handled

27.4m. tons of imports and exports. Last year the throughput was 25.6m. tons. It is doubtful whether there has been any real revival this year judging by the move away from the docks by some container operators and the delay in starting operations at the much-needed grain berth at Seaford.

On the financial side, it is doubtful whether 1973 will be a year to write home about either. Aggravated by the national dock strike the operating profit fell to £5.6m. in 1972

as against £8.2m. After interest payments and depreciation the port made a £1.76m. loss as against a £1.3m. profit in that encouraging year of 1971.

It was the port's inability to repeat 1971's turn-around last year that was partly responsible for such drastic measures being proposed under the required capital reconstruction scheme. In a nutshell the company is a year to write down 70 per cent. of the nominal value of debenture stock; a swingeing cut in investments, much of

which takes the form of private savings. As partial compensation stockholders would receive about £20m. nominal redeemable preference share capital. The company says this is the best scheme available under the terms of a Parliamentary Act.

Most stockholders disagree and the scheme has been referred to the High Court for judgment. The hearing will be later this year, but not in the normal courts. Because so many are expected to attend, the hearing will be held in a nearby hall.

The rumblings from disgruntled stockholders have even raised the possibility of putting the whole port into liquidation. Answering this particular call, Mr. Page said that liquidation would not provide stockholders with anything like the amount proposed based on the port as a going concern. "The large amounts of money spent on the docks," he said, "only earn money when operating as part of the port. The assets have little value otherwise, so it is in your interests, apart from any other consideration, that the port continues to operate."

It is also in the national

interest that the port should continue to operate as a major link in the country's transportation network. In spite of all its difficulties Liverpool is still considered Britain's second port and premier exporting terminal. Liverpool's own market research emphasises that companies making 60 per cent. of all British exports are within 100 miles of the port. Almost a third of the total U.K. population lives within this radius.

In Seaford, Liverpool has the newest and one of the best equipped purpose-built harbours in Europe. If there is to be further rationalisation elsewhere in the port system, that dock must not be allowed to become a white elephant. Soon the port will have improved roads linking it with the rest of the country; a campaign has been mounted to attract industry to Merseyside, to the port's doorstep. If the Mersey Docks Company, with its revamped management structure, new facilities and increased opportunities, cannot make a going concern of the port then nationalisation—regarded as a palliative in the late 1960s—might well be the port's only hope for the future.

pass through the station at once. The loop and Hamilton Square junctions together will double the rail passenger-carrying capacity on the Wirral-Liverpool route.

The 1.1-mile long link line will cut under Liverpool on a roughly north-south axis, and its principal function is to bring the northern and southern edges of the Merseyside conurbation closer to the centre and to each other. The new track will allow trains from the north to run straight to the heart of the shopping district instead of ending at Exchange Station, on the fringe of the central area, as they now do. Interchanges between Link and Loop will provide continuous rail travel from Southport to Chester or West Kirby to Wigan with only changes of platform.

Rail network

The MPTE recognises, however, that a good rail network is not on its own enough to make rail travel strongly competitive with the motor car. Getting people to the train station is half the battle, which is why the MPTE is experimenting with varied sorts of interchange between rail and other transport. Fifteen experimental interchanges have been set up for information gathering purposes. Half involve bus routes designed to deliver travellers to the trains; half are park-ride schemes. Experimental interchanges have been spread around a cross-section of stations, in poor as well as rich neighbourhoods and in both fringe and central areas.

Two stations are also being examined for potential combination of property development with interchange construction. Merseyside is not a boom area, but the Waterloo Station to the north of Liverpool is on a main road and might therefore be suitable for a mixed development of offices and shops. Birkenhead Park, in the Wirral, is another possibility.

Plans for further improvements to Merseyside rail lines present still more interesting possibilities. There are plans in the works to electrify many more miles of commuter rail, schemes for outer rail loops to the north-east and south-east of Liverpool, and hopes that Parliament will approve an electrified spur line to St. Helen's. The spur would make use of an existing tunnel. If that goes through a new station would be provided at Broadway, where, as MPTE Director General Arthur Moffat points out, the M62 motorway is expected to terminate. A road-rail interchange at that point could set a precedent for dealing with the problem of traffic in towns.

Transport links

By DEBORAH WAROFF

The ferry service across the Mersey, begun by monks in the 12th Century, still plays a limited but important role in the smooth functioning of Merseyside's present transport network. Seven ferries carry more than 5,000 passengers between the commuter land of Wirral and Liverpool's Pier Head during each rush hour. During the five-minute crossings a curious ritual takes place. The travellers pace unceasingly around the deck in an anti-clockwise direction, taking in the sea air and the river scene. This must be the healthiest public means of travelling to work in all Britain.

The ferry service is only one among the seemingly endless range of Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive (MPTE) concerns. The largest number of journeys around the Mersey estuary area are taken on the 1,400 buses that operate within the MPTE's area, which covers over 230 square miles. At last count, in the late 1960s, 54 per cent. of all journeys to the port seemed to be heading work in central Liverpool were for early recovery. In 1968, for example, Liverpool handled

port mode as the bus has received considerable attention from the MPTE in efforts to improve public transport. For the past three years the Rapid-ride programme has provided express bus services from outer suburbs not yet served by rail.

At MPTE headquarters a control room crammed with video and other electronic aids helps smooth traffic flows. TV cameras with 360 degree orbits posted around the city allow controllers to keep an eye on things. A light-up chart shows which of the city's traffic signals are red and which green at any given moment. 600 buses are fitted with radio, which makes still more information available. Any critical information gathered is passed directly on to the public over Radio Merseyside.

Investigation of bus priority lanes, continual revision of routes and conversion to one-man buses (60 per cent. of the total already) all figure in attempts to design an optimal public transport system. Indeed, flying carpets are among the few means of trans-

port not undergoing study by the MPTE. Rolling roads, cab-tracks and mini-trams are all being considered as potential means of providing passenger access to a Liverpool shopping district that will one day be pedestrianised. Electric buses have been tried and dial-a-ride will be investigated. "We try to keep an open mind," explains MPTE Director of Planning and Development P. I. Weidling.

Best disincentive

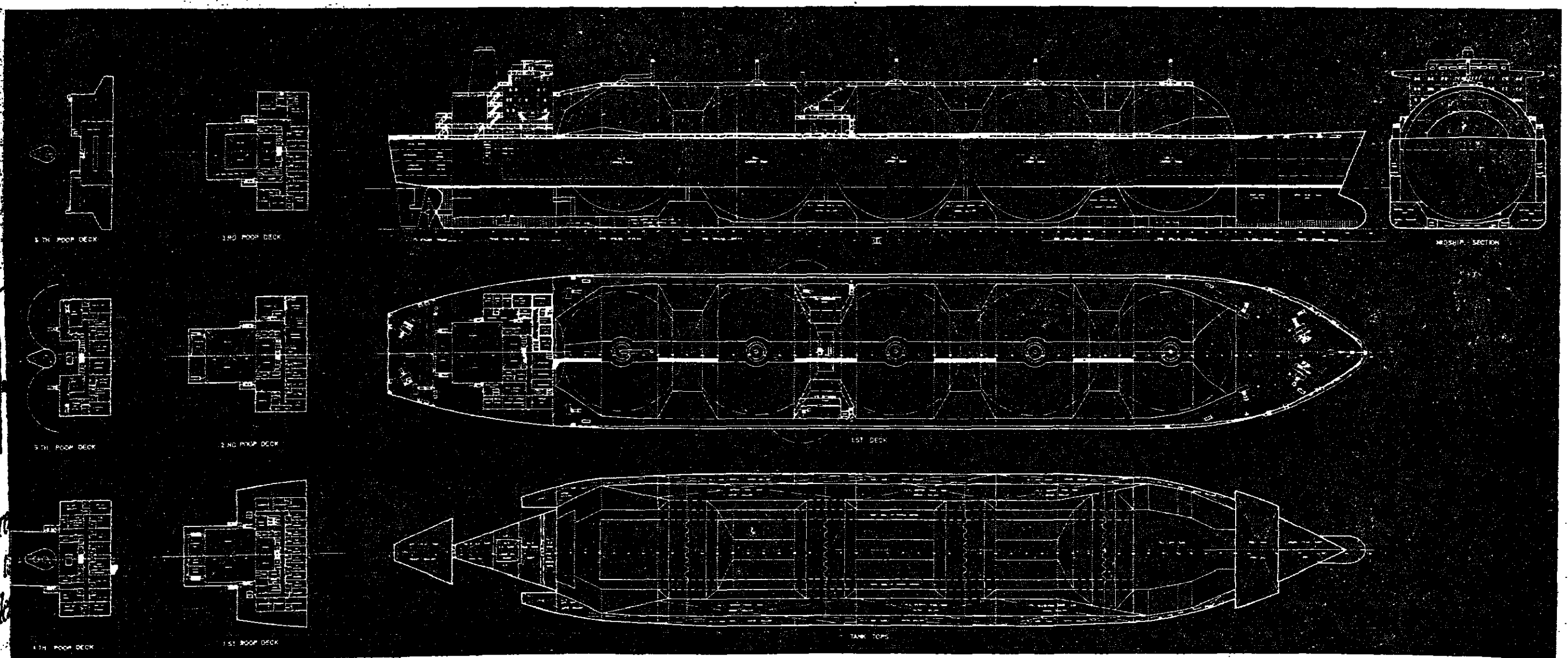
But plans for improving public transport around the Mersey estuary depend heavily on an improved rail network. A convenient rail service is reckoned the best disincentive against people bringing their cars to congested centre city areas. And of course rail lines, having their own rights of way, never suffer from traffic jams.

The most compelling argument for a rail backbone to Merseyside's transport network, however, is that the area is already blessed with an extensive rail network. This includes 11 commuter lines, plus inter-city services to London, the

Midlands, Manchester, Yorkshire and Scotland. Rail resources include tunnels and track currently fallow but potentially very useful. Compared to the financially and physically huge scale of most modern road and public transport schemes, only a very little needs to be done for Merseyside to have a truly excellent rail system.

The Merseyrail Loop and Link project, totalling just over three miles of track and costing only £25m., will tie the area's rail lines into a single system. Tunnelling for the two-mile-long loop will be completed in mid-September and trains will be circling the new single track by late 1975. The bulb-shaped loop tunnel runs under the very centre of Liverpool. Strung along its route are James Street, Lime Street and Central Station. A new underground station at Moorfields will be handy for the existing Exchange Station.

The loop line will cross under the Mersey to Hamilton Square at Birkenhead. There, a complementary "burrowing junction" is being dug, designed to allow more trains to



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LIVERPOOL AND MERSEYSIDE IV

Civil Service may provide key to office expansion

By PETER RIDDELL, Property Correspondent



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On the Loop + Link, passengers will be able to travel conveniently by rail to any part of the City Centre. And they'll easily be able to get around Merseyside itself simply by changing platforms at the Loop + Link interchange stations. Infinitely better rail communications both within the city centre and to and from it, should ease congestion on approach roads and city streets, and make Merseyside a better place to live and work.

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The Loop circle line starts at James Street station and ports of call are Moorfields, Lime Street, Central Station, back to James Street, and then under the Mersey to the Wirral peninsula.

New underground stations are under construction at these stops to service the Loop, together with escalators to enable passengers to surface on the street.

The new Merseyrail scheme is just one more example of the way in which the MPTC is constantly looking after the wellbeing of all Merseyside passengers.

THE LINK

will be in operation in 1976.

Trains on the northern lines from Southport, Ormskirk and Kirkby will go via Moorfields to Central Station in the heart of the shopping area instead of terminating at Exchange Station on the perimeter of the city centre.

LOOP AND LINK passengers can change from one line to the other by means of escalators at Moorfields and Central stations.

The new Merseyrail scheme is just one more example of the way in which the MPTC is constantly looking after the wellbeing of all Merseyside passengers.

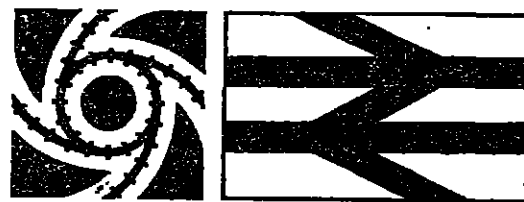
LOOP AND LINK passengers can change from one line to the other by means of escalators at Moorfields and Central stations.

The new Merseyrail scheme is just one more example of the way in which the MPTC is constantly looking after the wellbeing of all Merseyside passengers.

LOOP AND LINK passengers can change from one line to the other by means of escalators at Moorfields and Central stations.

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Arts looking for a wider audience

By ALISON MACDONALD

The arts on Merseyside are alive and well and waiting to be discovered by the wider world. Visitors may search in vain for the "Mersey Sound" of the 1960s as they remember it, but when it comes to the artistic side of life, the sounds and sights of Merseyside are diverse and spontaneous. One has not far to look for a variety of artistic happenings.

The Establishment arts are here. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra is frequently "at home" at the "Phil"; there are regular tours of internationally renowned opera and ballet companies. Good folk clubs proliferate, and at one point "folk" may be said to have taken the place of the Beatles, as far as a dominant influence goes.

Local artists—many return to the area after spells in London or abroad—have a choice of galleries to display their art. Then there are supposedly more keen amateur actors and actresses in the North West than in any other part of the country.

In such a cosmopolitan area there is tremendous scope for the individual. Talent is recognised as something that can happen to anyone at any time in life. There's hope for all—and generally an appreciative audience to go with it.

"Art has been regarded as a luxury item for too long, rather than a basic necessity... but there is a creative urge in everyone," says Keith Diggle, Director of the Merseyside Arts Association, who claims that the MAA—which financially assists and helps to support a diverse number of events and exhibitions throughout Merseyside—is in existence to create change and attitude.

"The climate in recent years has been unfavourable towards

the arts, when you compare the attendance at sports events, but it is changing. There is more interest now in the more experimental art forms, particularly dance, but reaction is mainly among the 16-25 year-olds," he adds.

It is this age group which goes to the theatre "expecting nothing," as critic Stanley Reynolds puts it, while their elders go either filled with preconceived ideas or the expectation of being entertained. There's nothing wrong in this, of course, but it should be remembered that audience participation does not necessarily mean getting up and doing something.

Ken Dodd proved this most emphatically in his one-man show "Ha Ha." There were no Diddymen in sight, just a series of highly theatrical and circus-like "props" and a packed auditorium filled each night with a cross-section of British public not quite sure what to expect, but prepared to take a chance.

Still on the theatrical side of the arts, one has read of the

each night having been made to think (and enjoy thinking) about, of all things, just what makes people laugh.

Touring companies

In contrast, if theatre audiences fall off, particularly with plays on tour, it is generally the play rather than the actors that is at fault and it is time it is realised that so-called "provincial" audiences are not going to put up with second best. One wonders how much longer a "star" appended to a play will attract audiences away from their colour television. The same applies to the large touring companies which leave some of their newer and more adventurous works out of their programme on tour. Lack of adequate sized staging should be their only reason. Modern communications make a mockery of those who pretend the regions are way behind the capital when it comes to culture.

Still on the theatrical side of the arts, one has read of the

petitions and general furore when one of Liverpool's five theatres was considering closing its doors to the dozens of amateur groups whose annual highlight is to attract a capacity crowd to a city centre theatre, and make full use of the professional facilities on hand. So successfully has this been done over the past few years that several of the larger companies have moved to a bigger city theatre for more ambitious productions—still playing for a whole week to capacity audiences who treat it as a "proper night out," with perhaps a meal in town as well.

The recent independent inquiry into the theatre situation in Liverpool, by theatre director Robert Cretwyn and Miss Elizabeth Sweeting, Administrator of the Oxford Playhouse, suggested that the amateur groups in the area be decentralised. Alternatively, if the Neptune Theatre, owned and run by Liverpool Corporation, is to continue to be the home of these companies, the

Continued on next page

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Provided sion Airport poised for major development programme

IAN GRONBACK

Liverpool Airport is poised to embark on a £10m. development scheme that would provide a new control tower and associated technical services and a new passenger terminal and light complex. Design work is at an advanced stage and the jet could be operational by 1977/early 1978.

First, the new Merseyside City Council must negotiate the acquisition of the airport in the Liverpool District Council. There is also the matter of planning permission for the runway extension at Speke, in which Cheshire County Council as well as Lancashire County Council will be involved. There is also the Civil Aviation Authority report on regional airports to be considered.

New terminal

Plans to develop a new terminal to complement the Liverpool runway never got the ground, partly because operators continued to spurn the airport. Then came a body blow with the collapse in 1968 of British Eagle, the airport's main operator, only a year after its inauguration of high-speed electric trains to London blasted a big hole in passenger carryings. Cambrian Airways picked the pieces after British Eagle collapsed but it has taken time to re-consolidate. The two years 1967-69 was the last period in the past decade when passenger statistics declined and, overall, between Belfast, Glasgow, the Isle of Man and 1972 terminal passengers have more than doubled as inclusive tours and our 240,000 to just under freight operation.

520,000. In the current year the January-July total of 332,000 is 8 per cent. ahead of last year. In 1972 the airport will receive its biggest boost for years when Cambrian Airways, the subsidiary of Cambrian Airways, launch a new inclusive tours programme that will provide 16,000 holidays out of Liverpool.

This and the development of other inclusive fare services will mean an additional 355 flights out of Liverpool—255 in summer, 100 in winter.

Last year, with losses on the airport running at over £400,000, consultants were called in and three alternatives presented to the Liverpool Corporation Transportation and Basic Services Committee, which is responsible for the operation of the airport. These were: to close; to continue as at present; or to develop.

The third course, to develop the airport, was decided on in principle, but not before the Liberal Party had called for the closure of the airport. With the Liberals now the majority party in the Liverpool District Council that threat has been taken seriously. There has been a closing of the ranks among all who believe Liverpool Airport should be developed and that it can and will prosper.

Evidence has been produced that 80 big industrial firms use the airport regularly and to close it would create major problems for the despatch of freight like pharmaceuticals, as well as for passengers.

And in expressing an airside point of view, Mr. Clive Saunders, deputy managing director of Cambrian Airways, said: "Closure of Liverpool Airport would be catastrophic for Cambrian. Of 382,000 passengers carried on Cambrian aircraft last year, half went through Liverpool. We have links between Liverpool and Cardiff, the Channel Islands, and, overall, between Belfast, Glasgow, the Isle of Man, Dublin and London as well as inclusive tours and our 240,000 to just under freight operation."

Mr. Ronald Williams, director of Transportation and Basic Services, Liverpool Corporation, said: "We have to expand. We cannot make a profit standing still. If the development proposals go ahead the airport could be handling 2m. passengers a year by the early 1980's and 2m. is about the figure at which airports seem to break even."

The old, deep-seated rivalries between Liverpool and Manchester have long given way to a more positive view of the competitive position of two airports within 35 miles of each other—Manchester now an established international airport, Liverpool still struggling to find its niche in the national, European and international route pattern.

Single control

Mr. Williams said he believes the two airports should eventually be brought under single control and developed in tandem on the lines of Heathrow and Gatwick, each with a fairly defined and well understood role. With the new motorway and road network evolving, the two airports would be little more than 30 miles apart by road.

For a wide area of population in the North West the difference in travelling time to the two airports is infinitesimal. It takes 20 minutes. Liverpool, he believes, could concentrate on long haul while Manchester develops its already extensive network with Europe.

Mr. Keith Porter, the airport director, put all this a slightly different way. "I think both airports are vitally necessary for the needs of the economy of the North West region and I do not like to see this pre-occupation with the South and East. Within 12 miles of Speke there are 2.5m. people and Ringway and Speke together could become a formidable terminal facility for aviation."

Understandably, Mr. Porter

believes fervently in the future volume of freight actually flown out of Liverpool Airport and considers the development scheme will go ahead. "Geographically and environmentally Liverpool is very well sited, and with the runway extension a lot more traffic would take off and land from over the Mersey. Relatively speaking, we cause little nuisance to our neighbours."

This would eliminate a lot of air traffic over Hale. The airport has a good weather record.

Another attraction of developing the new terminal on a 281-acre site near to the new runway was that this would facilitate closure of the old airfield releasing 483 acres of land for housing or industrial development. This would provide sufficient capital to make a significant contribution to the cost of the new development.

Mr. Porter said the airport is served by an excellent workforce, industrial relations are good, and Government departments, including Customs and Immigration authorities are most efficient and most co-operative. "Everyone here grasps every opportunity to demonstrate this is a first-class airport with a future."

Even with its present limited terminal resources the airport has handled up to 1,800 passengers in one-and-a-half hours. Mr. Porter said that the temporary "international" terminal developed in a hangar and opened in 1971 is reaching saturation and there is a scheme to extend this as a holding operation, running seating capacity from 220 to 700, to go ahead next year.

Philosophies have been advanced over the years that Liverpool should be developed as a freight airport. It is now generally accepted that the bulk of freight from Liverpool is carried on passenger services and that without a wider range of scheduled services the

Merseyside

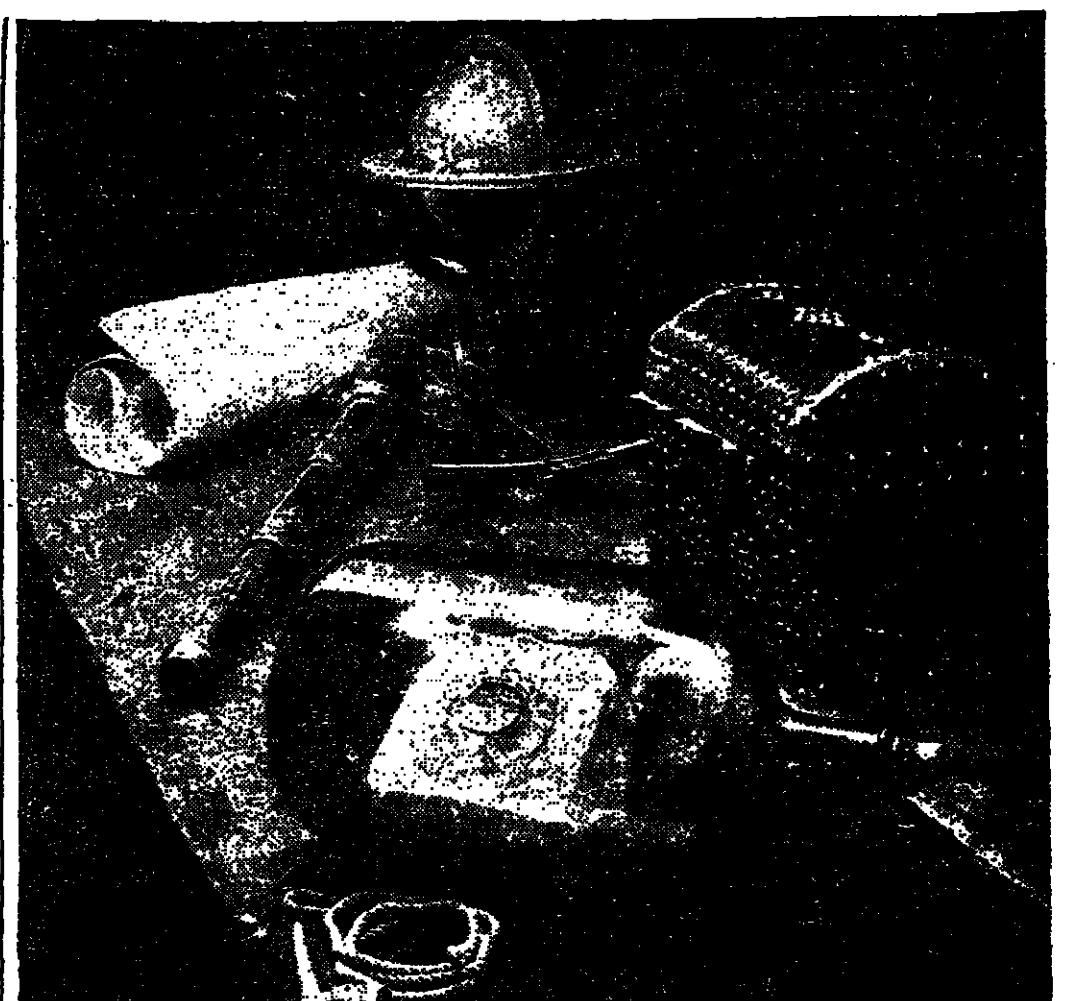
Merseyside

Merseyside

Natural growth

But neither industry nor commerce can foresee a city and seaport the size of Liverpool without an airport. It is confidently believed, the development project goes ahead, Liverpool Airport will be in a position to market confidently for the first time. With the natural growth in demand for air services and first class communications by road and rail the North West could sustain two airports to counter-balance concentration of air terminals in the south and east.

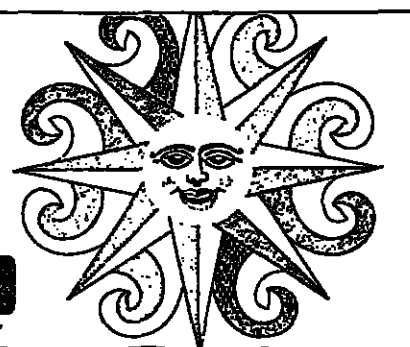
It is not without significance that as a matter of policy Liverpool City Council is opposing the Maplin project because they believe that the huge capital cost could jeopardise investment in other regions including Merseyside.



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**north
west**

North West Tourist Board, 119 The Piazza, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4AN. Tel: 061-238 0393

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Wider audience

report following the inquiry suggests that the groups concerned should have a much larger say in the administration of the theatre.

The Corporation recently agreed to treble the £5,000 grant to the Playhouse Theatre, whose repertory season veers rather towards the tried and trusted, but which has an active theatre club and theatre workshop.

For more experimental theatre one would visit the Everyman which, despite serious disabilities in its structure and its urgent need for a new home, attracts a progressively wider age group and increasing box office receipts.

Touring companies at present are housed at the Royal Court and the Empire Theatres. The latter, by far the largest of all five theatres, brings big name one-nighters to the city. The Royal Court, heavily subsidised by the Arts Council and the Merseyside Arts Association, probably provides the most consistently varied fare.

Poetry, particularly "pub" poetry, with an opportunity for the casual onlooker to throw in the odd line or two from the floor, is still active but perhaps not as strong a force as it was initially.

Mrs. Mary Wilson joined Adrian Henri and friends for a session which included mood music as well as poetry. The audience was small but appreciative, and poetry looks like retaining its minority appeal outside the home. But bookshops in the area report a growing demand for those slim volumes that were previously only acknowledged by the "university crowd."

It's true that few people appreciate things on their own doorstep, and this is particularly true of buildings such as museums and art galleries, but the response to the launching on Merseyside of "Friends of the Museums and Art Gallery" (the Liverpool Museums and the Walker Art Gallery) was overwhelming.

Not so much a fund-raising effort but more of an appreciation society, it has brought together a motley collection of interested "Friends," both native and imported who, besides contributing their own special gifts—often in the form of specialised knowledge—to the society, have organised many ambitious meetings and projects

and learnt a lot about the behind-the-scenes running of these two curators of the city's valuable heritage.

Many artists return to live in this area they knew from childhood, many of them frantically recording the streets and buildings before the central bulldozers do their worst.

Like acting, painting has a great amateur following in the North West and there are ample opportunities for displaying one's work. Maintaining and running a gallery these days calls for a fair amount of capital or an additional source of income. Some of the longer-standing gallery proprietors complain about falling standards in the hands of "rough amateurs." Nevertheless, it keeps interest in painting alive.

A brief glance through a mid-summer copy of "Arts Alive Merseyside," the free monthly MAA magazine gives a typical cultural diet for a month. It advertises concerts of

light music by some members of the Philharmonic, to be held at libraries, halls and schools through the region; the premiere of a new musical play by the Everyman company; a local art society holding a special evening when members talk about their own work; four exhibitions at the Museums; experimental films and events at the Walker Art Gallery for a season... the list is endless and the publication gives full details of just about everything it knows is going on.

Interviewing a group of young people recently—the oldest was 25—they were asked what they thought of the scene each side of the Mersey; what did they like about living in the area? They were unanimous in their individual replies. They liked living here because, one, they liked the people and, two, there was plenty to do. One sensed that they'd become an entirely different middle-aged audience for the Merseyside art scene from their parents' generation. This should help to keep things alive.

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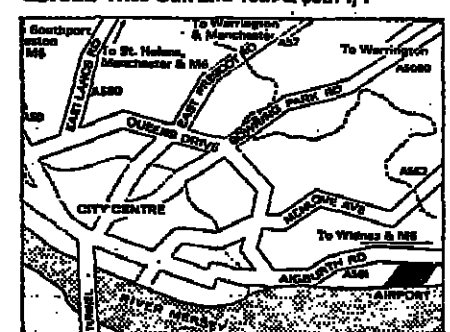


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Members will be closed from 10.00

a.m. on 11th September 1973 to 12.00

noon on 12th September 1973. The

Register will be open for inspection

from 10.00 a.m. on 13th September 1973

to 12.00 noon on 14th September 1973.

By Order of the Board,
JOHN SHAW & SONS
GALFORD LIMITED

Adelaide 4th September 1973.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the

Transfer Register in respect of the 6%

Unsecured Loan Stock (1960-2005)

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September 1973 to

The bank union battle flares up again

From JOHN ELLIOTT, Labour Editor, Blackpool, September 4

THE EBULLIENT Clive Jenkins, who has dominated the white collar union scene for the past few years, has just embarked on what may prove to be his most difficult conquest. After months, almost running into years, of public and private forecasts of an imminent breakthrough into banking, he is on the brink of moving into the clearing banks with a proposed take-over of the 10,000 member Midland Bank Staff Association.

He more or less has the blessing of the TUC establishment for this expansion of his City recruitment campaign, because his main rival in the clearing banks will be the National Union of Bank Employees, which was one of the 20 unions expelled here in Blackpool yesterday at the TUC conference for registering under the Industrial Relations Act.

This near-blessing is something unusual for Mr. Jenkins, because for years the TUC manual union leaders have disapproved of the brass leadership style of his union, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, which has expanded rapidly to its present size of 280,000 members. While they have had to watch this expansion, many of the TUC leaders have themselves been losing members and have not reacted sufficiently vigorously during the past ten years or so to the main growth area of trade unionism — white collar workers.

Poaching

But there is a special reason why the TUC — and especially its General-Secretary, Mr. Vic Feather, and one of its elder statesmen, Sir Sydney Greene of the Railwaysmen — are not too unhappy about ASTMS giving NUBE a rough time. The reason is that the TUC in general and Mr. Feather and Sir Sydney in particular have

given NUBE considerable help in its fight for recognition from the clearing banks. Here in Blackpool this week, the argument goes that NUBE could have showed its gratitude to the TUC by de-registering under the IRA in line with TUC policy. If NUBE were to be "taught a lesson" by ASTMS, TUC leaders hope privately that others of the 20 expelled unions might take fright, de-register and return to the TUC fold where they can enjoy the protection of the TUC's rules against poaching of members — a protection which NUBE lost when it was expelled yesterday.

But, despite this warning of virtual TUC support for poachers upsetting established labour relations procedures, and despite the enthusiasm with which Mr. Clive Jenkins will officially announce his latest proposed marriage partner on Thursday, ASTMS may not find the going as easy in the clearing banks as it has been during its recent rapid expansion in other commercial and City institutions.

Whether ASTMS turns out in a year or so to have been this week on the brink of taking over the clearing banks or on the brink of a defeat depends almost entirely on whether the established staff organisations in banking can sink their traditional differences, end their infighting, and close ranks against an outsider.

For a time, the banking employers might be prepared to resist ASTMS. But it would be quite illogical for them to do so indefinitely if the existing staff organisations do not initiate any changes. To understand how this situation has developed, one needs to go back half a century or more and trace what may be the longest battle for white collar union recognition ever. From about the time of the first general and World War NUBE and its predecessors were regarded as des-



Left, Mr. Clive Jenkins of ASTMS



Centre, Mr. Claude Smith of the Midland staff association



Right, Mr. Clive Jenkins

pised organisations, trying to intrude into banking and using unjustifiable tactics against the banks and their staff associations. The Midland Bank figures prominently in the battles down the years. Its chairman referred to NUBE about 50 years ago as this "serpent in our midst."

Opponent

From the start, the banks actively encouraged the formation of their own individual staff associations and gave them essential financial support. Up until the second World War — or maybe even until the early 1960s — bank staffs appeared to be so proud of their status in society that they were horrified at the thought of being represented by a real trade union, which many of them automatically associated with alien socialist or even communist beliefs. But times and attitudes change, especially in regard to white collar unionism, and eventually after intervention by the International Labour Office

and by a government-ordered court of inquiry, national joint negotiating machinery for the clearing banks was set up in 1968.

This meant that for the first time in its history NUBE had full national negotiation and negotiating rights. But it had to share these with the staff associations which had originally been formed to kill it off. The last banks to fall into line and accept NUBE and the national machinery was the Midland Bank and its staff association led by Mr. Claude Smith, general secretary, who has been a life-long bitter opponent of NUBE.

Of all the associations, the Midland still has the closest links with its bank, which pays Mr. Smith's salary. It also has more difficulty than the other bank staff associations in persuading the Registrar of Trade Unions that it was sufficiently independent of its employer to qualify for registration under the IRA. Eventually it raised £20,000 from a merchant bank to satisfy the Registrar that it

had sufficient funds in reserve to survive if the bank withdrew its financial support.

The negotiating machinery set up in 1968 has been dogged by constant rivalry between the associations and NUBE. In 1968 and 1969 the clearing banks themselves formed the Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers. The Staff Associations created the Council of Bank Staff Associations on Thursday for Mr. Jenkins's formal announcement of the merger proposal between his Association and ASTMS. He may even be formally welcomed by Mr. Feather. In fact, the Midland Association's traditional anti-pathy towards NUBE makes all this less surprising, because of the damage that ASTMS could do to NUBE.

Friction

Throughout, the associations have controlled the staff side because they have more members than NUBE, and this has led to constant friction. At the end of last year, the associations' Council dominated the staff side with 73,000 members compared with NUBE's 68,000. It was this continuation of the 50-year-old preoccupation of NUBE and the Association with sniping and fighting against each

other that allowed Mr. Jenkins to march through the middle to the Midland, where Mr. Claude Smith was waiting. Over the years Mr. Smith has been regarded as a stern opponent of anything to do with the TUC. So he has stunned some of his fellow general secretaries in the other staff associations, first with his secret courtship of ASTMS, and second by the fact that he is coming to Blackpool on Thursday for Mr. Jenkins's formal announcement of the merger proposal between his Association and ASTMS. He may even be formally welcomed by Mr. Feather. In fact, the Midland Association's traditional anti-pathy towards NUBE makes all this less surprising, because of the damage that ASTMS could do to NUBE.

Now the Midland Association members are to be balloted on whether they want to join ASTMS. In the background will be the regular argument heard in banking and other white collar spheres of whether staff are best looked after by their own internal representatives (like a staff association negotiating direct with management) or by outsiders.

Mr. Smith's main complaint is aimed at the national negotiating machinery. He claims that Midland staff were better off when he negotiated

for them alone with Midland management. This claim is rejected by other staff and management representatives in the banks, although there is no doubt that the Midland staff were well paid prior to 1968 and that some have inevitably lost out because the banks' old domestic salary scales have been changed under a national job evaluation scheme.

By moving in on the Midland, ASTMS has picked on the smallest — if not the weakest — of the big Staff Associations. The Midland Association has only 10,000 members, which is 1,600 down over the last four years, compared with Staff Association membership in the other banks of 22,500 in Barclays (up from 15,000 four years ago), 24,000 in National Westminster and 17,000 in Lloyds.

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Autonomy

This argument has even led some NUBE members to complain about the union's recent moves outside clearing banks and into other financial institutions, which they regard as reducing the union's effectiveness as a solely banking organisation.

ASTMS seems likely to get round this problem by offering the Midland Association considerable autonomy so that it is virtually able to exist as a separate entity in day-to-day business. Judging by Mr. Smith's past policies, it also seems likely that he is hoping clearing banks

that he will be able to rid himself of the banking national machinery and negotiate independently with his bank in the way he did prior to 1968.

But there could be problems here. First, to be a member of the Association's Council, a staff association must be registered, which ASTMS is not, and there do not appear to be any plans as yet to leave the Midland Association as a registered section of the non-registered ASTMS. Under the present negotiating machinery, however, only a member of the Association's Council and NUBE can take part in the national negotiations.

Militant

ASTMS could therefore find it difficult to obtain the status it needs, especially if, as seems quite likely, the Midland and the banking employers' federation refuse individual recognition. Midland staff association members have never staged industrial action, and even if they voted to merge with ASTMS seem unlikely to be willing to do so now.

But whatever happens, it is clear that ASTMS has achieved a major coup by getting this far with one of the most traditional staff organisations in the business. It is undoubtedly a feather in the cap for Mr. Jenkins, whose union can increasingly claim to be a significant force in city centre such as London, Liverpool and Birmingham, where it has gained recognition in businesses as such as insurance companies (where it claims 50,000 members), building societies, shipping offices, together with a couple of foreign banks and expected new acquisitions in the unit trust field. Mr. Jenkins argues quite logically that all these businesses form a "common labour market" with the better off when he negotiated

Complaint

Mr. Smith's main complaint is aimed at the national negotiating machinery. He claims that Midland staff were better off when he negotiated

Labour News

EPTU leaders to meet over Chrysler

BY ROY ROGERS, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL OFFICERS of the Electrical and Plumbing Trade Union will meet shop stewards from all Chrysler U.K. plants this week-end to consider how to support 156 electricians at the company's Coventry plant who have been on strike for the past month over a pay dispute.

They will decide whether to call out electricians at the other plants, although this need not mean immediate disruption provided other workers continue to cross the picket lines (as is being shown in Coventry).

EPTU leaders are also assessing the scene for spreading the dispute to Chrysler's suppliers, but Mr. Frank Chapple, EPTU president, said yesterday that the union was anxious to avoid forcing Chrysler into continuing to rely on imported components after the dispute is settled.

No support

The Coventry strikers want £250 a year increases, but the Pay Board says these will breach Government limits by £65 a year. The strikers are receiving no support from other Coventry workers, who last week accepted their union leaders' instructions to work normally.

Yesterday Mr. Chapple sent letters to leaders of the Transport and General Workers Union and Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, complaining of their action in condoning the alleged use by the company of "blackleg" labour to do the striking electricians' work.

The decision to write these letters was taken at an executive meeting in Blackpool, which also decided to double the dispute benefit for the strikers to £5 a week.

Militant AUEW shop stewards from the company's Linwood plant yesterday lobbied their leaders at the TUC Congress in Blackpool, asking them to reverse an instruction to Chrysler workers to work normally during the dispute.

They were told by Mr. Hugh Scanlon, AUEW president, that the executive decision was taken

in the light of Mr. Chapple's statement that the strike would be called off, if the company offered to pay the £250 but was prevented by a Pay Board order. He argued that the EPTU was therefore not opposing the Government's wages policy by this strike.

At the company's Linwood plant production began returning to normal last night following an earlier shortage of engines from the Coventry plant. By to-day about 4,500 of the 4,400 made idle by the shortages will have been recalled. Production continues at near normal levels at Coventry.

Peter Cartwright writes that the deadlock in a pay strike by 450 maintenance workers of Wilmot Breeden in Birmingham, which has closed all five factories and caused the 3,000 production force to be laid off, is continuing. When the strikers meet on Friday their shop stewards will recommend that they stay out.

Offer raised

The strikers are demanding that the pay gap of £13-£18, with skilled production workers earning up to £50 a week, should be substantially closed. In April they received the maximum of £2.21 under the Government's £1 plus 4 per cent formula, as well as substantial improvements in pensions, life assurance, redundancy pay and future holidays.

Since then the company has increased its offer of £3.50 a week to £5.00, to be paid when legislation permits, subject to an immediate resumption. This offer has also been rejected, as has a proposal to set up a joint committee to study the pay structure with a view to relating earnings of indirect employees, like maintenance workers, to the performance of pieceworkers whom they serve.

Wilmot Breeden produces a wide range of locks, window opening mechanisms and other items for the motor industry. Since stocks are generally good, repercussions of the strike are not expected to be felt for several days.

Union row looms over dismissal of officer

AN INTERNAL ROW looms in the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union officer the dismissal of national officer, Mr. Mark Young, writes Roy Rogers.

Mr. Young's five-year term as an elected officer ended in July and the Union Executive, which now appoints national officers following rule changes in 1969, has refused to reappoint him.

He is understood to be returning home early from holiday in Cyprus because of the move, which relegates him to the position of merely a member of the union. Unless he can appeal successfully against the decision he will have to seek another job.

Mr. Young, whose main responsibility was as secretary of the trade union side of the Civil Air Transport Industry's

Joint Negotiating machinery, was runner-up to Mr. Frank Chapple in a ballot for the EPTU presidency last year. He is expected to be among the main contenders for Mr. Chapple's former post of General Secretary, if the executive decides it still needs one.

There is some doubt over the post continuing to exist, especially if merger talks between the EPTU and the General and Municipal Workers Union make progress.

No specific reasons for Mr. Young's removal have been disclosed as yet, other than the completion of his elected term, but there is speculation among some EPTU members that the decision may well be tied up with personal rivalry between Mr. Young and some executive members.

Other Labour news, Page 14

Heath firm against 'wicked men' behind bomb attacks

BY JOHN BOURNE, LOBBY EDITOR

A FIRM STAND against the perpetrators of the bombings in Britain was made by the Prime Minister last night. He added that he could not tell the people whether they had yet seen the end of these attacks: "We cannot be sure how much damage and suffering may yet be caused."

Speaking in Gravesend, Mr. Heath said that if the IRA did have some hand in the bombings — and he could not exclude other possibilities — "it is difficult to see what they hope to gain. They may think they can produce in Britain an overwhelming demand for the withdrawal of our army from N. Ireland. If so, the bombings have failed in their purpose, and will continue to fail."

"There has been no such demand, and so far as I can judge there will not be. If that was their aim the results must already be a bitter disappointment."

Repudiated

"The question at stake is whether a group of men should be able to achieve by violence the authority which over and over again has been denied to them by the free vote of their fellow countrymen. They have been repudiated by the majority of those in N. Ireland. They have been repudiated by the people and government of the Republic of Ireland. They are increasingly repudiated even to that part of the Catholic minority in N. Ireland from which they used to draw their strength."

Political issues and arguments were resolved by the ballot box. Everyone accepted this. "From time to time enemies of this country have made a mistake about this. They have believed they could exploit our political divisions to foist upon us an alien philosophy; the same mistake is being made to-day."

"For nothing is more alien to our ideas than the concept that a small group should gain control of the country and the bomb the success which has always been denied them through the ballot box."

"We shall relentlessly pursue and hunt down those who are responsible for violence in every part of the N.I. Equally as a people we have now made it clear to these desperate men that, whatever devices they resort to, they will not be allowed to prevail."

Ulster: Dublin Cabinet meets on 'Irish dimension'

BY DOMINICK J. COYLE

DUBLIN, Sept. 4

THE GENERAL framework of the Dublin Government's negotiating position with Whitehall, giving tangible expression to the "Irish dimension" to the so-called "Irish dimension," to an Ulster settlement is being determined at a special two-day Cabinet meeting which started here this morning.

It is expected to be following within the next few weeks by a series of top-level Anglo-Irish exchanges which could include a further meeting in London between Mr. Edward Heath and Mr. Liam Cosgrave, the Irish Prime Minister. The two last met on July 2.

The Littlejohn "spy" case created some considerable strains in relations between the two capitals.

It now appears both Governments are anxious to put that episode behind them and initiate definitive discussions on the proposed Council of Ireland, mentioned in the British White Paper on the North published in March.

The Government here sees such a Council, which would

Specific

A formal statement announcing the extended Government meeting — planned as the first of a series — did not make any reference to the specific topics under review, although it is known that Northern Ireland and Anglo-Irish relations are high on the agenda.

Ministers are also considering a broad range of other policy matters and "long-term perspectives" not connected with the

associate Dublin directly with North. It is expected here that Whitehall will soon implement its expression to the "Irish dimension" without undermining the constitutional status of the North as an integral part of the United Kingdom.

A special inter-departmental unit comprising senior officials from key Government departments here, has prepared a series of reports dealing with the proposed Council and other aspects of the Ulster problem. Those have gone before the special Cabinet meeting.

The Cosgrave Government

now fully supports the seemingly firm decision of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in the North not to commit itself to participating in such an executive until other important issues, including the proposed Council of Ireland, have progressed.

The Dublin-SDLP attitude is, however, capable of some compromise. Irish Ministers are suggesting that talks on the formation of the executive, and discussions on the Council and police reform in the North, which the SDLP is also insisting, could be advanced simultaneously.

N. Atlantic charter traffic up

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

CHARTER TRAFFIC on the increase of 11 per cent. in the number of seats offered on scheduled services, at 1.7m. As a result, the scheduled load factor fell back by 4.9 points to just over 80 per cent.

For the first six months of the year, scheduled service passengers have risen by 11.7 per cent. to 4.25m, while IATA charter passengers have risen by 38 per cent. to 661,224. The figures reflect the efforts the IATA airlines are making to beat the independent charter

operators at their own game, but which are also taking traffic away from scheduled flights.

It is for this reason that some airlines, notably British Airways, will be pressing at forthcoming fares talks in Nice for the extension of scheduled services of cheap fares currently available on charter flights — such as the Advanced Purchase Excursion (APEX) fares, which would match the cheap Advanced Booking Charter (ABC) rates now available.

Merger costs £1½m.—Marking

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

MR. HENRY MARKING, style is a maximum of half a million pounds, as the new style improvement, by combining the Airways, denied yesterday that it is being introduced almost entirely when existing items fall (BEA would be as much as £5m. due for replacement or normal — in terms of money spent on maintenance.

As against this comparatively small expenditure, the benefits we are great. "We are planning for a name; and £10m. from improved changing to the new design financial improvement of up to productivity."

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COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Dexion-Comino recovery: 4% interim

IMPROVEMENT in Dexion-Comino's first-half profits, up from £351,000 to £382,000, should be maintained in the second six months, says chairman Mr. D. Comino, and the figures for the full year to October 31, 1973, are likely to exceed the previous best year's profit level.

In particular there are grounds for expecting considerable improvements in France, the U.S. and Australia, while the U.K. and Germany remain very buoyant.

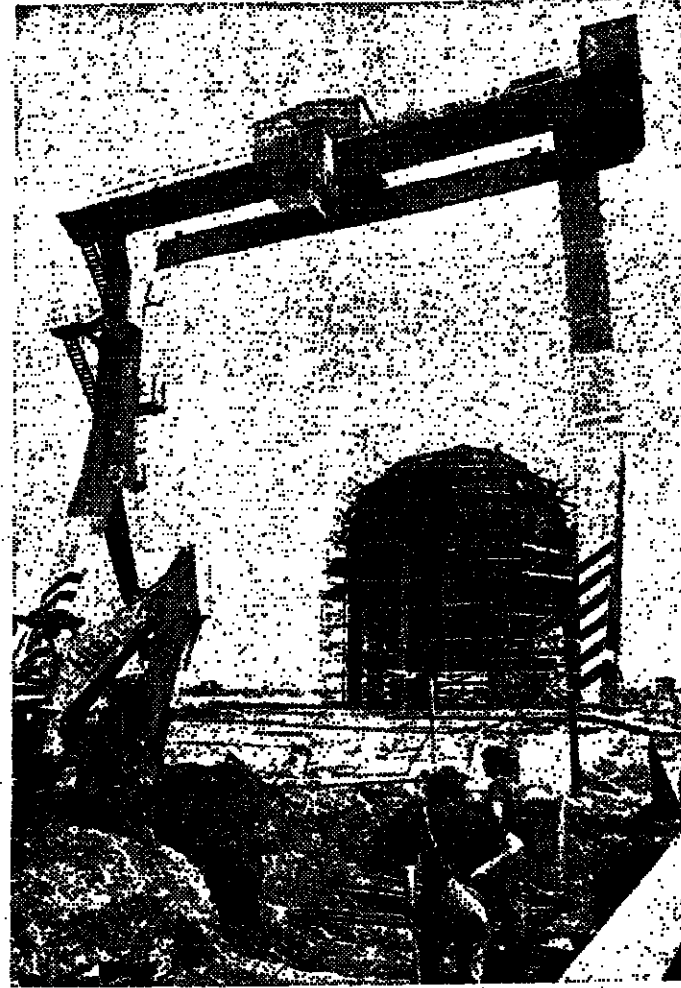
An interim dividend of 0.25p, or 4 per cent gross, is declared. The company was a 9 per cent dividend for 1972. For the full year to October 31, 1972, the group made a pre-tax profit of £375,000.

Mr. Comino attributes the improved results to the economic situation in European markets and the reduction or elimination of loss making activities.

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Profit lift for Nurdin & Peacock

ANNOUNCING a pre-tax profit raised from £282,487 to £339,025 for the half year, cash and carry wholesaler Nurdin and Peacock continues to be an unknown factor in second-half projections but Revertex has now considerably strengthened its rubber buying management. On a doubling of first-half profits, the prospective net p/e at 65p is around 10.



Two 51-ft-diameter flotation spheres—one of which is pictured here under construction at Motherwell Bridge, Leith, are to be attached to the legs of the four production platforms to be installed over the Forties Field. The spheres are designed to maintain stability during the installation of the platforms.

Revertex first half upsurge

FIRST HALF turnover of Revertex, the specialist chemicals group, has risen by 34 per cent to £10.4m, taxable profit by 91 per cent to £558,000, and the attributable balance, after estimated 50 per cent tax, by 36 per cent to £258,000.

The interim dividend is lifted from 7½ pence to 8 pence, or 1.4 per cent share net, absorbing £118,500. Total for the previous 15 months was 25 pence, equal to 20 per cent per annum, paid from pre-tax profits of £295,000. For comparative purposes profit for the 12 months to December 31, 1972 is given — at £282,000.

In his interim statement, Dr. Ernest Brookman, the chairman, points out that the 1972 six months includes the period October 1, 1971 to December 31, 1971, for which Harlow Chemical sales were consolidated.

And, since the second quarter of the calendar year usually shows the best results, sales for the second six months of 1973 can be expected to be below those for the first for purely seasonal reasons.

The figures are after charging an exceptional loss on rubber trading of £200,000 and after providing a further £250,000 to cover possible further losses.

These "serious" figures arise from the "violent" increase in rubber prices, explains the chairman. They could have been higher but action by the Board, through Revertex Sales, has contained the situation.

Results also make allowance for the increased cost (not yet recovered in increased prices) of styrene—one of the major raw materials used by Doverstrand—and Dr. Brookman reports that the group is now assured of adequate supplies for 1973. He also has confidence that requirements of raw materials can be secured for 1974.

The chairman concludes — "Despite considerable uncertainty about the state of the U.K. economy, I believe that prospects for Revertex and I have no reason to do other than confirm that profits for the year should be higher than any of those for the last few years."

Brooks aims for 50% total

SECURITY ALARM and timelock specialist, Brooks Group, aims to make the materials handling equipment industry more vulnerable to cyclical fluctuations. The trend is now firmly up, as shown by Dexion-Comino's 50 per cent pre-tax jump in profits on a sales increase of a quarter.

Assuming that the group's half contribution around 60 per cent of profits, as has been the case in "normal" years in the past, then £2m. could be on the cards, for a prospective p/e of 7.7, 27½p.

However the prospect of 1973 remains something of a damper on the prospect of a re-rating for Dexion.

comment

Accumulated movements in stock levels and stock turnover ratios at different levels of economic activity make the materials handling equipment industry more vulnerable to cyclical fluctuations. The trend is now firmly up, as shown by Dexion-Comino's 50 per cent pre-tax jump in profits on a sales increase of a quarter.

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However the prospect of 1973 remains something of a damper on the prospect of a re-rating for Dexion.

Provident Clothing up £0.8m.

FIRST HALF pre-tax profit of the Provident Clothing and Supply Company rose by £0.8m. to £3.05m. and the directors are confident the 1973 outcome will again be a record, satisfactorily exceeding the £2.95m. of 1972.

Meanwhile, the interim dividend is effectively rounded up from 7.2 pence to 7.5 pence, or 1.3125p net. Previous total was in equal to 21.6 per cent, adjusting for a scrip.

Expanding turnover and a growing contribution from the activities of The People's Bank have more than compensated for the extra

comment

Brooks's pre-tax profits are 31 per cent ahead, the growth has been spread right across the group, and the prospect for 1973 is bright. With the shares at 97p, that points to a fully-taxed prospective p/e of 12.8 net—five points less on present rates—and a solid base for the shares at this stage in Brooks's evolution. The time period may be profits, loss, enough and alarm sales are a comfortable uptrend. But the real potential lies in marine electronics—bargain-priced, echoing the boom in the sale of a new car radio which will absorb the production of the extra

Centreway Securities

(Investment Holding Company)

Record Results: Growth Continues

RESULTS Pre-tax profits for the latest 12 months were a record, and had the group been constituted in its present form for the year to 31-3-72, this would have represented organic growth of 27.5%.

DIVIDENDS A final of 15% gross (equivalent to 10.5% net) is recommended, making a total of 25% for the year ended 31-3-73; a payment of 4% was made in June 1972 in respect of the 6 months to 31-3-72.

INVESTMENT POLICY The Directors intend that the company should operate as an investment holding company with interests in trading concerns, property and quoted investments. The company has been developed to date by acquiring and developing interests in selected businesses where growth in earnings are expected to rise both organically and by rationalisation.

EXPANSION Since 31-3-73 a 10.4% interest has been acquired in Ryan-Traders Distribution Ltd., an Irish company with interests in motor distribution and associated light industries.

PROSPECTS Each of the Group's subsidiaries is enjoying good trading conditions and the organic growth of each business is proceeding at a satisfactory rate. The company's liquidity position is strong and the Directors are confident that the Group has access to the required resources to finance further developments.

Crouch sees upturn

WITHOUT undue optimism, the chairman of the Crouch Group of builders and developers, Mr. R. E. Aris, considers current-year profits will satisfactorily exceed those of 1972-73 excluding the proceeds of the £200,000 contract claim in that year.

As reported on July 17 at the time of the successful fight against a takeover bid by Metropolitan Property Holdings pre-tax profit for the year ended March 31, 1973, was £1,047,684 (£577,644 with a dividend of 20 pence, 15½ pence).

A February valuation of properties held as fixed assets, other than those in the Republic of Ireland, disclosed a surplus of £200,000 over book. Meeting, Surbiton, September 28, noon.

Chairman's statement Page 11

Walter Duncan plans to float Alex. Lawrie

WALTER Duncan and Goodrich is planning to float off its Alex Lawrie subsidiary, which has factoring, banking and property interests.

Lawrie's capital is being increased from £501,000 to £895,834 by the creation of 194,834 shares, of which 55,887 are to be issued to Mr. N. A. Grant, Lawrie's managing director. Up to 138,147 shares are to be issued to Banque Belge, the price in each case being 250p per share.

Duncan directors said the association with the bank will increase the ability to expand Lawrie by having access to substantial lines of credit. Ultimately, a listing will be sought for Lawrie shares, with another issue by way of rights to Duncan investors. Net proceeds of the initial issue, amounting to £559,000, will be used partly to repay amounts owed by Lawrie to the group.

Because Mr. Grant is a director of the group, shareholders' approval will be sought for the issue to him of Lawrie shares.

TPG profit improvement

GROUP profits of Thomas Poole and Sons, the craft, furniture and industrial investment group, reached £215,510 for the year ended March 31, 1973, compared with £204,464 for the 15 months ended March 31, 1972, and included £134,593 (£87,952) profit on sales of investments.

After group charges of £77,725 (£37,606), profit before taxation came out at £137,785 (£220,558) which the directors said was a satisfactory improvement on the £181,068 (£134,593) pre-acquisition profits from Stronpoint.

The directors are recommending a dividend of 0.093p gross—£220,558—of the equity will substantially enhance both the balance sheet and profits in the foreseeable future.

Meeting, Park Lane, W1, Tuesday, October 16 at noon.

Pennine Motor

PRE-TAX profits for Yorkshire-based vehicle distributor agents and dealers Pennine Motor Group, are running at a rate "satisfactorily ahead" of last year, chairman Mr. P. R. Grimshaw told the annual meeting.

The figures were continuing to reflect benefits of integrating last year's acquisitions and organic developments and recent promotional campaigns, he added.

A gross interim dividend of 5.25 pence is declared. Last year's equivalent after adjusting for a scrip issue was five pence, and the total 15 pence.

No interim figures are being prepared at this stage because of negotiations over the acquisition of a large private group, Mr. Grimshaw said. He hoped to announce details of the move later this week.

The group's shares were suspended at its request on July 23 pending details of the impending reorganization.

Good prospects for Redland

A FORECAST of higher profits in the current year comes from Lord Beeding, chairman of Redland. In his annual statement he tells members that although an improvement as great as those shown for the last two years cannot be expected, prospects for 1973-74 are good.

The expectation of a substantial recovery in the waste treatment and disposal business, a material increase in the contribution from the sale of surplus property, and continued growth in other areas, lead the chairman to expect a "worthwhile profit improvement."

In the year ended March 31, 1973, group sales at £117.72m. were 35 per cent higher and pre-tax profits increased by 57 per cent to £20.5m. Earnings per share rose by 79 per cent helped by a reduced tax charge. With the exception of Redland, all home divisions increased profits as did all overseas companies. The overseas contribution to the after-tax income attributable to Redland remained almost unchanged at just under 40 per cent.

A geographical analysis of sales and attributable net profits—£34.43m. (£34.71m.)—shows (in per cent): U.K. 40, Europe 29, and 28.1; Australasia 17.5 and 10.5; rest of world 3.9 and 0.8.

As indicated in the chairman's last statement, the group has now embarked upon a programme for realising land and other property surplus to requirements. This made a material contribution to profits this year, and is expected to continue to do so for many years to come, says Lord Beeding.

A number of projects mentioned in earlier years are still under development or are reaching the first stages of commercial application.

Redland has authorised, or budgeted for future authorisation, capital expenditure amounting to some £15.86m. (£15.85m.) over the next five years. At March 31, contracts had been placed for some £2.09m. (£2.07m.). In addition, the expenditure programme for overseas subsidiaries for 1973 totalled about £7.11m. (£7.08m.).

A share option scheme for 1973 is also being considered.

Raybeck produces peak £2.4m

THE much higher profits produced by Raybeck in January earnings a record £2,451,000 for the year ended April 28, 1973—this represents an increase of £221,000, or 10.1%, on the £2,230,000 of 1971-72. Earnings per share are set to be up from 7.88p.

Adjusting for a scrip issue, a dividend is raised from 1.56p to a gross equivalent of 1.56p net—equal to 2.24p gross. But for the reduction in the dividend would have been at least maintained, and higher capital, members are

comment

Raybeck continues to deliver goods—profits are 34 per cent higher after a first-half gain in sales. The company's main business remains unimpaired: the shares at 99p (28 pence down on a half-time level) are now on a rating of 9.5. While there is a small change in the split between manufacturing and retailing, this is a logical result of the expansion of the retailing business, but this may be a term process and in the meantime it needs to maintain its profits upturn.

LONDON AND COUNTY SECURITIES

CHANCE has been received for the change of name of London and County Securities to London and County Securities Group.

Chairman's statement Page 11

Cornwall Property

MANAGEMENT projections for Cornwall Property (Holdings) are targeted at a 15% increase in profit; contributions from all divisions with parallel asset growth from the completion of property developments undertaken.

Chairman Mr. H. Shuck

ISSUE NEWS

SHORT-TERM LOCAL LOANS

Arrangements have been completed for the placing of the following local authority loans:

- City of Birmingham (£2m) Chesterfield Corporation (£1m) Preston Corporation (£1m) Borough of Havant (£1m) Leathfield Urban District Council (£4m), Moulton Ash Urban District Council (£1m), Wigan County Council (£1m), Orkney County Council (£1m), Abernethy Urban District Council (£1m), Burgh of Dunbar (£1m), and City of Bath (£1m), are all issuing 10 per cent Bonds due September 11, 1974, at par.
- St. George Warburg placed £100,000 of Abercrombie bonds on the introduction of Roberts Union Company, the Wigtown bonds on the introduction of Butler Hill and the Orkney issue on the introduction of London and Westminster (Sterling Brokers), Mountain Ash issue was introduced and underwritten by Gillett Brothers.
- General and National Discount handled the Birmingham issue while Butler Hill placed the Dunbar bonds.
- Brokers to the other issue were Gordon and Bevan to Bath, the Orkney and Bevan to Bath, the Loan and Mortgage to Preston and R. Nivison to Chesterfield.

INTERIM STATEMENT



Interim Report for the Half Year to 30 June 1973

	1973	1972	
First six months	First six months	Year	
£ million	£ million	£ million	
Sales to external customers	127.4	93.6	195.5
Profit before tax	10.8	7.3	16.8
Profit after tax	6.3	4.8	10.9
Profit after tax applicable to IMI	5.7	4.3	9.8

The above figures exclude profits on metal stocks and profits arising from the increase in value of the net assets of overseas subsidiaries and associates due to changes in exchange rates. There was a profit on metal stocks before tax of £2.7m in the first half of 1973 compared with a profit before tax of £0.2m in the first half of 1972, and £0.3m for the full year.

Taxation is based on a U.K. Corporation Tax rate of 47½% (1972—40%). The charge for the first half of 1973 has been reduced by a credit of £0.2m for investment grants, compared with £0.2m in the first half of 1972 and £0.5m in the full year.

Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend at the rate of 4.25% (equivalent with the relevant advance Corporation Tax to 6.07% gross compared with 5.5% gross for 1972) payable on 9 October 1973 to shareholders on the register on 7 September 1973. This will absorb £1.7m.

Patent Industrial

REPORTING first half profit up from £2,000 to £22,000 before tax the directors of the Patent Industrial Group indicate a figure in excess of £44,000 for all of 1973.

Meanwhile they are to leave consideration of a dividend until the year's results are known. Last payment was a 2 pence interim for 1971.

Turnover for the six months reached £10.9m. against £8.5m. and trading profit was £61,000 compared with £31,000. Tax took £10,000 (£2,000).

With the exception of the tool division of Birmingham Tool and Gauge, where labour unrest caused it to lose money in the first quarter, the group showed steady earnings and the level of order intake is rising, the directors state.

Plans are in hand to house more adequately the operating companies on separate sites and at the same time reduce the high level of gearing the group has in terms of borrowed money.

The Soho Hill factory in Birmingham is being sold for £287,500.

Movers of operating companies must affect output of the companies concerned in the second half, but they are confident profit will show an improvement over the first half.

An opportunity to sell

A substantial and progressive public company wishes to acquire companies manufacturing or distributing products falling broadly within the fields of surface coatings, plastics, chemicals, packaging and car care. Purchase prices of between £100,000 and £2,500,000 are envisaged and will be settled in cash or by the issue of securities according to the requirements of the seller. In most cases continuity of the existing management would be a condition of the acquisition.

Enquiries in confidence to: Messrs. Linklaters & Paines (Ref: DAC), 59/67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

ANOTHER RECORD FOR DU PONT

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The Education & Applied Technology Division, Du Pont Company (U.K.) Ltd., Du Pont House, 18 Bream's Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3BT. Telephone: 01-242 9944. Ext. 469.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Centreway Securities Ltd., 1 Cornwall Street, Birmingham, B3 2DT.

A.G.M. Grand Hotel, Birmingham, 19-9-1973, at noon.

COUNTER-INFLATION ACT 1973

The Treasury have given consent to the declaration by the following companies of dividends of the total amounts specified for the financial years ending on the specified dates:

Company	London	EC4	£97,863	31.12.72
Grand Central Investment Holdings Ltd.	London	EC3	£114,059	31.12.72
Warren Tea Holdings Ltd.	London	EC3	£767,118	31.3.73
Supplegreen Insurance Holdings Ltd.	London	EC3	£64,655	31.3.73
Negretti & Zambra Ltd.	London	NW10		31.3.73
General Engineering Co (Radcliffe) Ltd.	Manchester		£39,800	31.3.73
Reynolds (Excavations) Ltd.	London	W1	£4,938	30.11.73

Second half jump boosts Decca to record £15m.

SECOND HALF profits of Decca have expanded from £4.94m. to £15.0m., pushing up the total for the year ended March 31, 1973, to a record £15.0m.—more than double the £7.06m. reported for 1971-72.

When announcing the first half figures the directors indicated that the second-half result should be substantially greater than for the same 1971-72 period.

At the net attributable level profits emerge at £9.24m., compared with £3.80m., after adding £192,000 (deducting £230,000) in respect of changes in foreign exchange rates. On a per share basis earnings before those items are shown at 47.6p (23.8p) or at 45.9p (21.6p) after those items.

An analysis of the pre-tax profit shows that consumer goods (records, tapes, TV audio, etc.) contributed £3.8m. (£4.6m.), and capital goods (electronics, etc.) £5.23m. (£2.45m.).

Profits from consumer goods benefited from an improvement in the sales of the record division and from increased production of colour television receivers, the directors explain.

On the capital goods side both the navigators and those items made higher profits than in any previous year.

Including exports of £24.3m. (£20.1m.), group turnover expanded from £115m. to £118.4m. An analysis shows: overseas, including direct exports, £56.6m. (£44.4m.); — consumer, £29.2m. (£22.9m.); — capital, £27.5m. (£21.5m.); and U.K., £37.5m. (£37.4m.); — consumer, £39.1m. (£24.4m.); and capital, £18.7m. (£13.5m.).

The group's profit margin for the purposes of Phase 2 is based upon the year 1972-73. However, about one-half of the group's turnover is in overseas and export trade it is not until 1973-74.

They report that the current year is progressing well with turnover and pre-tax profits for the first six months expected to be ahead of the corresponding 1972 period.

The 1972-73 dividend is the maximum permitted, being up from 11p to a gross equivalent 11.55p per 50p share. The final is 5.985p net—equal to 8.55p gross.

Trading balance 19.540 11.246
Provision, etc. 2.596 2.607
Audit fees 140 133
Interest 1.222 1.221
Profit before tax 15.862 7.641
Taxation 5.941 2.514
Net profit 9.921 5.127
Minorities 10 51
Solidity credit 192 229
Attributable 9.729 4.976
Dividends 1.250 1.250
Forward 15.794 12.163

* Companies U.K. tax, less DTR, £126,000 (47,000), overseas tax £1,173,000 (1,072,000), less investment grants £3,000 (£100,000) and prior year adjustments £36,000 (£28,000). A net effect of changes in foreign exchange rates on net current assets: 1 debit.

See Lex.

Y. J. LOVELL
DEBENTURE

W. J. Lovell (Holdings), in a circular to the 7½ per cent. Debenture stockholders states that the directors propose a change in the

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates for Board Meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available whether dividends concerned are interim or final and the sub-division shown below is based mainly on last year's timetable.

TO-DAY
Agricultural Products, Mohale, Spicers, Carpets International, William Collins, Consolidated Diamonds, Mines of South West Africa, Danish Bacon, De Beers Consolidated Mines, De Beers Industrial, Friedland Dogart, London United Investment, Sharp and Fisher, Sun Alliance and London Insurance, Thariss Suburban and Copper.

FRIDAY
Fluoro-Associated Dairies, City and Overseas Investment Trust, Dalmeida, Far's Biscuits, Gold and Base Metal Mines.

FUTURE DATES
Bretton & Cloud Hill Line Wks. Sept. 11
British Printing Corp. Sept. 7
Dickinson Robinson Sept. 27
Oliver (George) (Footwear) Sept. 21
Owen Owen Sept. 13
Pearson Longman Sept. 14
Pittard Group Sept. 14
Portals Sept. 11
Sparrow (G. W.) Sept. 13
Wildman Sward Sept. 13
Haywards Sept. 11

* Amended.

terms of the debenture trust deed in order that the group may utilise to a fuller extent its resources in the expansion of its house and commercial building activities.

It is proposed that interest be paid to holders at an increased rate of 8½ per cent.

Good start by EGA

If trading continues at its present level the current year should be one of outstanding growth for EGA Holdings, states chairman Mr. F. A. Payne.

The year has made a good start, he reports, with turnover and profits for the first two months well up.

All companies have full order books but the present state of the economy, the growing shortage of essential raw materials and the uncertainty of what Phase 2 has in store for U.K. companies makes forecasting very difficult, he adds.

As reported on August 15, pre-tax profit for the year to April 30, 1973 was £442,849 (£454,945) with a dividend of 4p (5.5p).

Analysis of group sales and profits shows Plastics Division—U.K. and overseas contributed £1,786,578 and £297,520 (£1,438,798 and £242,350); Engineering Division £1,395,870 and £108,263 (£1,230,594 and £165,795); Surgical Division £73,479 and £16,120 (£70,393 and £16,950); Holdings (Management, Investment and Rental Income) profit £20,948 (£28,850).

Group turnover increased by 20 per cent but this was not reflected in increased profits due mainly to a severe setback by the Constructional Engineering Division, which began as a result of the builders' strike and con-

tinued for the major part of the year. It was not until the latter part of the year that this company was able to effect a turn round and, while the last quarter showed a very substantial recovery, it was not quite sufficient to wipe out its earlier losses, the chairman states.

However, at the present time, this company is operating profitably, has a full order book for the next five months, and with an increasing demand for its services is able to be more selective in the type of work undertaken.

Meeting, St. Asaph (Flintshire), September 20, at 2.30 p.m.

Beatties sales and profit up

FIRST-HALF SALES of James Beattie, retail department store owners, have expanded by 24 per cent. to £5,608,000 and net profits, before profit sharing, have advanced by 40 per cent. to £278,000.

Recalling his statement last May that, following the substantial increase in profits last year, it had been decided to pass some of the benefits back to customers through the application of lower margins, chairman Mr. James Beattie says he believes this decision is one of the factors which has contributed to the very considerable increase in sales.

It is too early to make any worthwhile forecast of the full year's results, he adds. Pre-tax profit for the year to January 31, 1973, was £1,33m.

Mr. Beattie reports that the new store at Sutton Coldfield is progressing according to plan. Directors hope to open this next spring, and the sixth store at Northampton the following year.

Half-year 1972-73 1973-74
Sales 5,608 4,500
Profit 278 230
Tax 244 195
Net profit before profit sharing 278 230

Acquisitions were the former Walter King Journals and directories for the gas industry and the Tolley tax publications. The benefits of the Walter King rationalisation will not reach the group until 1973-74 or possibly later, the chairman says, and the "undoubted rewards" from the Tolley group will also begin to flow in the current year.

Proceeds from the sale of Pourville House, plus premiums from the assignment of leases of Boit Court and the Streatham warehouse went as £300,000 to the Sir Ernest Benn Pension Fund and £1m. into short-term deposits. The balance of £278,000 was used to repay bank borrowings—overdrafts are down from £581,917 to £3,288—and for the provision of working capital.

By June 30, 1973, the amount on short-term deposits and tax deposits had risen to £1,175,000. Proposals for a share option scheme for senior executives and a new share purchase scheme are being drawn up to replace the loan scheme discontinued following the Finance Acts 1972 and 1973.

Initial selling-in is "excellent" says Johnsons' chairman Mr. Bob Nielson. Later this year it is proposed to launch more products—including colour TV sets and a less expensive range of Johnsons own-name cassette music systems. 1973.

IMI ahead by £3½m. in first half year

FROM EXTERNAL sales of £127.4m., against £95.6m., profits of Imperial Metal Industries have gone ahead by £3.5m. to £10.8m. in the first half of 1973.

The figures exclude profits on metal stocks and profits arising from the increase in value of net assets of overseas subsidiaries and associates due to changes in exchange rates, the directors point out. There was a profit on metal stocks before tax of £2.7m. in the first half (£0.2m.).

A net interim dividend of 4.25 per cent is declared, equal to 6.07 per cent. gross (5.5 per cent.). The total for 1972 was 12.5 per cent., paid from profits of £16.8m. That figure excluded metal stocks profits of £0.3m.

1973 1972
Im. £m. £m.
External sales 127.4 95.6
Profit 10.8 7.3
Depreciation charged 2.2 2.3

Share major associates 0.6 0.6
Profit before tax 10.8 7.3
Taxation 4.3 2.5
Net profit 6.5 4.8
Minorities 0.6 0.5
Attributable 5.9 4.3
* Reduced by a credit of £0.2m. for investment grants (same).

IMI is a subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries.

Benn Bros. development

The continued development of Benn Brothers' profitability is particularly satisfactory as it was achieved during a transitional period to a new divisional management structure, reports chairman Mr. E. Glanville Benn.

As reported on August 17, the group showed a pre-tax profit of £467,000 (£303,000) for the year ended June 30, 1973, the dividend total is 15.875 per cent. (17.5 per cent.) and a one-for-one scrip is proposed.

Acquisitions were the former Walter King Journals and directories for the gas industry and the Tolley tax publications. The benefits of the Walter King rationalisation will not reach the group until 1973-74 or possibly later, the chairman says, and the "undoubted rewards" from the Tolley group will also begin to flow in the current year.

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By June 30, 1973, the amount on short-term deposits and tax deposits had risen to £1,175,000. Proposals for a share option scheme for senior executives and a new share purchase scheme are being drawn up to replace the loan scheme discontinued following the Finance Acts 1972 and 1973.

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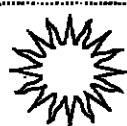
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ARAGONESAS starts big oil plant



The port of Palos on Spain's southwestern coast has been famous for a long time, ever since Christopher Columbus sailed from there in 1492 to discover America. There has been another big start there in the last few weeks — the start-up of a new chlorine plant by Aragonesas (Energía e Industrias Aragonesas, S. A.), Spain's leading electrochemical company.

Initial capacity of Aragonesas' new chlorine installation is 43,000 tns/year, which raises our total chlorine capacity in Spain over the 100,000 tns/year mark.

The Palos facility is the first stage of Aragonesas' major chemical complex in the Huelva area of Spain, to come onstream and puts the company in optimum shape not only to supply the domestic Spanish market but also to compete successfully in the rapidly accelerating «Discovery of Europe» by Spain's chemical industry.

Aragonesas, with numerous customers already in the EEC, the United States and many other countries, was a pioneer in exporting basic chemicals from Spain, and has constantly sought to broaden its customer base. The new chlorine plant at Palos, together with the other new facilities which will come onstream there in the next few months, are the culmination of Aragonesas' 50 years of constant progress and expansion, and at the same time the start of a new and exciting phase of challenge and opportunity.

Columbus had faith in a vision, Aragonesas has faith in reality — the reality of its Palos complex.

ARAGONESAS, the future present.



ARAGONESAS

Energía e Industrias Aragonesas, S. A.
Avenida de Calvo Sotelo, 28-Madrid (Spain)-Telephone 4.19.46.00

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY NEWS + EURO MARKETS

Swedish shipyards' £225m. investment

By John Walker

FOUR OF the main Swedish shipyards are to invest about £225m. in the next five years, the companies state. The largest single item will be spent by the Göteborg yard at Gothenburg which will amount to Kr.1,100m. between the turn of the year and 1978. This will include a new dock but it has not yet decided whether it will be built at the Arendal or Ormestad yard.

Uddevalle, the State-owned yard also in Gothenburg is to invest Kr.500m. (£50m.) in new facilities which will allow them to build ships up to 450,000 tons. It is expected that the yard will later extend its facilities to take construction of ships up to 700,000 tons which would put them in direct competition with Japanese yards.

Kockums is to invest Kr.700m. and the plans include the construction of facilities for 700,000 ton ships. Eriksberg is to invest Kr.700m.

The value of orders at the beginning of the year amounted to about Kr.14,000m. (£1,400m.) for the whole of the industry and makes Sweden the second largest shipbuilder in the world after Japan.

An increase in sales from £43m. to £48m. is reported by Kockums Mekanska Verkstads AB for the first six months of 1973.

Shipyard sales were about £31m. against £27m. and industrial orders rose to £17m. from about £15m. Among the company's new orders for the first half of this year were six 355,000 DWT tankers.

Increased sales by the industrial group were, in the main, due to improved conditions throughout the European forestry industry. Orders for the first six months of this year were well up on those for 1972.

Although shipyard sales were up by about £5m., this was lower than was anticipated as a direct result of currency fluctuations.

● Societe Internationale Pirelli of Basle, the holding company grouping foreign subsidiaries of the Pirelli-Dunlop union, reports net profits of Sw.Fr.28.4m. (£8.1) for the year ended June 30. A dividend of Sw.Fr.14 is to be paid (13).

● Bethlehem Steel has set up an affiliated company in Greece, Bethlehem-Creek Mining. Its activities will include mining exploitation and the establishment of plants for the processing of ores.

THE DUTCH SUGAR MERGER

Suiker Unie to discuss new cash bid for CSM

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Amsterdam, Sept. 4.

THE BATTLE for Centrale Suiker (CSM) is open again, now that CSM accepted an invitation from Suiker Unie to begin negotiations about a new cash bid which it is preparing for CSM. This follows the withdrawal of the earlier Suiker Unie bid and the announcement to-day of a cash-bid combined with an invitation to CSM and the trade unions to have further consultations.

In view of these consultations Suiker Unie will not supply any details of the new bid. However, Suiker Unie claims that the bid will be "essentially better" than the one from Koninklijke Scholten-Hoog.

CSM's supervisory board Chairman J. De Wilde said at a Press Conference last week after the merger between CSM, Gist-Brocades and Menkeba was called off, that CSM was rejecting the KSH bid as well as the earlier

Suiker Unie bid, primarily in view of the "raid" character of the bids. He was prepared to talk to either of the two companies, "but only on another, more free and independent basis."

CSM will now give Suiker Unie the opportunity to state its intention but the company carefully pointed out that CSM would not change its earlier standpoint as far as independence went.

The new Suiker Unie bid is again aimed at an integration in the Dutch sugar industry. Suiker Unie and CSM are the only two sugar refiners in the country, with the former accounting for two-thirds of the overall Dutch production.

On the Amsterdam Stock Exchange CSM shares dropped Fls.40, from 1,000 to 960 following the announcement of the higher Suiker Unie bid. KSH was a few guilders up. Bourse circles

express doubts about a higher Suiker Unie bid for CSM. The KSH bid amounts to Fls.1,000 per share and the Bourse fears that the higher bid might cause Suiker Unie problems in respect of earning capacity.

Earlier the European Commission has asked for more information about the merger between Suiker Unie and CSM. It wished to establish whether market rules of free competition were likely to be infringed. Suiker Unie now says that the Commission's judgment can be expected before Mid-December 1973.

KSH said last night that there was no intention to change its bid in view of the Suiker Unie plans. The bid which KSH calculated to amount to Fls.1,050 per share or certificate CSM, expires September 7 and the group will announce on September 14 whether it will confirm the bid.

Germany to take bulk of the output of new Iran refinery

BY ANDREW HARGRAVE

FRANKFURT, Sept. 4.

THREE GERMAN companies involved in oil-refining and petrochemical activities have exchanged a "letter of understanding" with the National Iranian Oil Corporation to take the larger part of the output of a 35m-ton-a-year oil refinery expected to be in operation in 1978.

The companies are the chemical subsidiary of Veba, Gelsenberg, and U.K. Wesseling, a subsidiary of RWE, a major electricity undertaking. Veba is at present negotiating with the support of the Federal Government (which has a 40 per cent stake in Veba) for the acquisition of RWE's 48 per cent, holding in Gelsenberg, with the aim of eventual control.

The 350m. refinery is likely to be built jointly by the German August Thyssen-Huette and the American Fluor Corporation. The proposed long-term deal with the Iranian Corporation, final details of which still have to be worked out, is part of a sustained effort by both the oil companies and the German Gov-

ernment to secure and spread energy supplies.

Veba alone will have a refining capacity of 16.5m. tons by the end of this year, which is to be increased to 20m. tons within two years by the expansion of existing refineries, including one recently acquired. A further 5m. tons will be added later in the decade when the refinery planned for Brunsbüttel in Northern Germany is in operation.

Veba's most ambitious plan for a 10m. tons-a-year refinery and petrochemical complex at Orsay, on the lower Rhine, received a severe setback recently with the local planning committee's decision to reduce the land available for development to a third of its intended size.

Gelsenberg and U.K. Wesseling have refining capacity of about 17m. tons between them. About 30 per cent of the former's supplies come from Libya, and although these are not expected to be jeopardised by the latest nationalisation decision, both Gelsenberg and other German companies are anxious to secure alternative supplies. At present between 50 and 60

per cent of Veba's own needs are met from Algeria and the Soviet Union. Combined, the three German companies have about a quarter of Germany's total refinery capacity, with the U.S. oil majors, BP and Wintershall, a subsidiary of the German chemical group BASF having the bulk of the rest.

The Veba-Gelsenberg merger, with the former as the "core," is a significant component in the Federal Government's long-term energy programme, the outlines of which were announced last week. To-day Dr. Hans Friedrichs, the Economics Minister, expressed the hope that talks for the acquisition of the RWE holding will shortly be concluded.

Chloride loan

THE CHLORIDE Group has borrowed \$27m. (about £11m.) for seven years from a syndicate of British banks led by Samuel Montagu. The loan incorporates a multi-currency facility.

American real estate borrowings

By Mary Campbell

A number of U.S. real estate investment trusts are currently in the process of arranging stand-by agreements or roll over loans on the Eurodollar market.

According to market sources, Continental Illinois Realty has arranged a \$50m. stand-by for one year with a syndicate led by Manufacturers Hanover and Diversified Mortgage Investors has arranged a five-year roll-over loan with a syndicate led by Merrill Lynch-Pierce-Fenner & Smith Bank with Jessup and Lamont.

Citizens and Southern is also believed to have arranged a \$50m. one-year stand-by. Other similar deals are thought to be in the offing for U.S. companies to borrow in London than New York at present.

Most of the deals with real estate trusts are related to the requirement that these institutions should back up the full value of their commercial paper issues in New York with unsecured bank credit lines.

Real estate investment trusts also appear to be particularly vulnerable to the U.S. squeeze because, since they are financial institutions, any squeeze on the banks shifts demand for funds to them.

Standard (Indiana) loan likely

By Mary Campbell

A VERY substantial note issue by Standard Oil Co. (Indiana) is in the offing according to widespread rumours in the Euro-markets. The exact amount involved is not known but it is believed to be in the region of \$400m. Market sources say that the proposed coupon level is 8 1/2 per cent.

Japan eases way for foreign listings on Tokyo exchange

TOKYO, Sep.

JAPAN'S FINANCE MINISTRY has said that it will accept consolidated financial statements for the listing of foreign shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The move affects those foreign companies already using consolidated statements in accordance with the laws, regulations and traditional practices of the countries in which they are based, the Ministry said.

In line with its decision, the Ministry will revise existing regulations and ministerial orders governing the listing of foreign stocks by the end of the year.

At present, the Tokyo Exchange accepts only non-consolidated statements for listing purposes. It, too, is expected to revise the foreign stock listing rules, the Ministry said.

Leading securities companies said the Ministry's decision will clear the way for between 40 and 50 foreign concerns to list their stocks in Tokyo without the considerable expense involved in compiling non-consolidated statements.

In July this year the exchange decided to accept consolidated financial statements for listing the stocks of foreign companies which agree to file non-consolidated statements.

Six such companies already made a preliminary approach to the exchange the object of filing formal statements later this year when exchange is expected to call all procedural details. Sources said. They include National City Corp., General Electric Co., International Business Machines Corp., First Chicago Corp., Financiere de Paris et de Bas (Paris).

First trading in foreign on the Tokyo exchange expected to start around 1974, it is understood.

REUTERS

Bigger TWA credit

NEW YORK, Sept. 4.

TRANS WORLD AIRLINES said January 1, 1978. Then the amount it reached agreement with a group of 35 banks to expand to \$300m. the amount of its revolving credit line and to extend the period during which credit is available.

Under the previous agreement, TWA could borrow up to \$250m. up to January 1, 1977. According to the new agreement, TWA can borrow up to \$300m. up to

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Dutch shipp in talks on link-up

By Our Own Correspondent

AMSTERDAM, Sep. 4. THE LEADING Dutch shipping companies KNSM, Ned. Luchtvaart Maatschappij, and Industrial Corporation, Amsterdam, are in talks with the Government about a merger between the two companies. The agreement is reached KNSM issue a bid for all outstanding shares and certificates of the Industrial Corporation.

Both companies have a share in their activities in Central America, where a joint venture has been established with Sony, electronics. Ceteco (former Ceteco) covers a wide variety of activities in the field of industries and services, manufacturing of electronic food processing, wood and metalworking.

Ceteco holds a strong position in Venezuela, where a joint venture has been established with Sony, electronics. Ceteco has interests in the Great Lesser Antilles and in Mozambique. The company also has a variety of activities in the field of industries and services, manufacturing of electronic food processing, wood and metalworking.

Matsushita in Spain

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd.

MATSHITA ELECTRIC Industrial Company has agreed to purchase an 80 per cent interest in Anglo Espanola de Electricidad S.A., of Spain, from Lear Siegler Inc. of the U.S.

Matsushita officials declined to disclose the terms of the purchase. The Spanish company, capitalised at Pts.70m. has a volume of \$10m. a year. It makes electrical appliances such as monochrome televisions, radios, air conditioners and freezer compressors. Matsushita officials said.

Tokyo Press reports said Matsushita plans to begin next year manufacturing in Spain colour televisions for the local market. Colour TV broadcasts in Spain are expected to start in 1974.

Kruger newsprint deal

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MONTREAL, Sept. 4.

KRUGER PULP and Paper, of Rivieres, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec City, is negotiating to buy a newsprint mill in Trois Rivières newsprint mill of Domtar.

The mill is being sold for an undisclosed amount in cash, but Kruger said the cost of acquisition, plus investment in woodlands and modernisation of some of the mill's equipment, would require around \$50m.

There are six newsprint machines and off-machine coaters. Kruger's chief customers are in the U.S. and the deal will lift its newsprint capacity in Quebec to around 500,000 tons. Domtar is known to be planning to expand the Lake St. Jean area of Quebec.

Capacity of the mill at Trois Rivières, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec City, is 300,000 tons a year. There are six newsprint machines and off-machine coaters. Kruger's chief customers are in the U.S. and the deal will lift its newsprint capacity in Quebec to around 500,000 tons. Domtar is known to be planning to expand the Lake St. Jean area of Quebec.

Bids and Deals

Company Results

Other News

Bosch takes over Sonormel unit

● Bosch Group, Blaupunkt-Werke has set up a television and radio production company, Blaupunkt (France) in Montevideo, Calviados, with a Frs.16m. capital. The company has taken over the plant and machinery of Ste Normande de Fabrications Electroniques (Sonormel).

● Horten, the West German store group, has reached a trading agreement with Otto Versand, Hamburg. Horten will take over five of Otto's warehouses on a long-term lease from the beginning of 1978 and Otto will concentrate on its mail-order business. Horten's 1972 turnover was DM2,714m., while Otto's was DM1,523m. for the year ended February 28.

● Fudi Bank has established a joint venture in Malaysia with United Malaysian Banking, National and Grindlays Bank and a Malaysian businessman, Tan Sri Omar Onn Yoke Lin. The new concern, Asian International Merchant Bankers Berhad, is capitalised at \$10.5m. and is owned 50 per cent by United Malaysian Bank, 25 per cent by National and Grindlays, 15 per cent by Fudi Bank and 7.5 per cent by Yoke Lin. The new bank plans a wide range of merchant banking activities in Malaysia.

● Bank of Tokyo has acquired a 6.8 per cent interest, or about 1m. shares, in Corporation Financiera Colombiana de Colombia, from International Financiera, a World Bank affiliate but has declined to disclose terms of the purchase. Corporation Financiera is capitalised at Colombian pesos 144m. The participation is aimed at strengthening the Bank of Tokyo's activities in Colombia.

● Hanjin Corp. of Korea, the Chicago-based, International Marketing Associates (IMA) for 100,000 Hanjinex Ordinary shares. IMA distributes photographic and audio equipment in the U.S. with net tangible assets approximately \$135,000. Hanjinex expects the acquisition to considerably strengthen its North American distribution operations.

● Capital Investment of Honolulu has sold its 18-hole Peacock Golf course and country club north of San Francisco to Nitto Hawaii, for \$2.25m.

● Weyerhaeuser and American Can have jointly announced the closing of the previously announced sale to Weyerhaeuser of the American Can pulp and paper mill at Rothschild, Wisconsin. The facility is one of three pulp and paper operations that American Can last year said it would sell as a result of a decision to withdraw as a supplier of fine paper.

● First National Boston has announced the organisation of a wholly-owned subsidiary, First of Boston Mortgage. Its area will be real estate financing and will supplement the lending activities of the Real Estate Division of First National Bank of Boston. Since the new corporation will operate under the regulations of the Bank Holding Company provisions of the Federal Reserve System, greater flexibility will be possible in meeting the credit needs of real estate finance and the bank's real estate customers.

Cement-Roadstone lifts earnings by 41%

● Cement-Roadstone Holdings of June 30 to \$Sing.13.02m. (7.4m. in 1972 first-half). This year's first-half profits increased 44.5 per cent. July 12. Net earnings per share for the period amounted to 0.83p against 3.58p for the corresponding period last year, an increase of 41 per cent. An interim dividend of 12 pence is to be paid. This compares with an interim dividend of 9 pence for 1972.

The company adds that its development programme ensured that it was in a position to benefit fully from the buoyant conditions in the building and construction industry in Ireland, where demand for all its products exceeded expectations. In addition, it further increased its market share of the expanding agricultural limestone market. Overseas operations also continued to prosper with exports of cement of 12 per cent, over the same period last year.

● Emery Air Freight revenues for the first half of 1973 were \$33,905m. up 31 per cent, over the \$26,129m. realised a year ago. Income was up more than 56 per cent to \$6,444m. from \$4,129m. Income from international (non-U.S.) operations was almost double that of the corresponding period of \$1,744,000. Revenue from this area of Emery's operations in the same period rose from \$16,052m. to \$22,313m. Jan. Schenckels, Emery's 7 per cent interest, for Europe, said that the marked rise in both revenue and income from international operations reflected the company's decision to concentrate on international sales development.

● United Overseas Bank reports a rise in group unaudited pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 to \$Sing.13.02m. (7.4m. in 1972 first-half). This year's first-half profits increased 44.5 per cent. July 12. Net earnings per share for the period amounted to 0.83p against 3.58p for the corresponding period last year, an increase of 41 per cent. An interim dividend of 12 pence is to be paid. This compares with an interim dividend of 9 pence for 1972.

● Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort reports consolidated profits for the year to June 30 of more than \$49,866m. A final dividend of 7 pence is to be paid, making an unchanged total of 12 pence (14 pence).

Consolidated gross income from trading rose 17 per cent. Directors say profits for the year were better than expected when the half-year report was made, principally due to improved trading conditions during the first six months.

SELECTED EURODOLLAR BOND PRICES MID-DAY INDICATIONS

Anglo American 7 1/2% 1987	88	Anglo American 7 1/2% 1987	88
Anglo American 8 1/2% 1992	89	Anglo American 8 1/2% 1992	89
Anglo American 9 1/2% 1997	90	Anglo American 9 1/2% 1997	90
Anglo American 10 1/2% 2002	91	Anglo American 10 1/2% 2002	91
Anglo American 11 1/2% 2007	92	Anglo American 11 1/2% 2007	92
Anglo American 12 1/2% 2012	93	Anglo American 12 1/2% 2012	93
Anglo American 13 1/2% 2017	94	Anglo American 13 1/2% 2017	94
Anglo American 14 1/2% 2022	95	Anglo American 14 1/2% 2022	95
Anglo American 15 1/2% 2027	96	Anglo American 15 1/2% 2027	96
Anglo American 16 1/2% 2032	97	Anglo American 16 1/2% 2032	97
Anglo American 17 1/2% 2037	98	Anglo American 17 1/2% 2037	98
Anglo American 18 1/2% 2042	99	Anglo American 18 1/2% 2042	99
Anglo American 19 1/2% 2047	100	Anglo American 19 1/2% 2047	100
Anglo American 20 1/2% 2052	101	Anglo American 20 1/2% 2052	101
Anglo American 21 1/2% 2057	102	Anglo American 21 1/2% 2057	102
Anglo American 22 1/2% 2062	103	Anglo American 22 1/2% 2062	103
Anglo American 23 1/2% 2067	104	Anglo American 23 1/2% 2067	104
Anglo American 24 1/2% 2072	105	Anglo American 24 1/2% 2072	105
Anglo American 25 1/2% 2077	106	Anglo American 25 1/2% 2077	106
Anglo American 26 1/2% 2082	107	Anglo American 26 1/2% 2082	107
Anglo American 27 1/2% 2087	108	Anglo American 27 1/2% 2087	108
Anglo American 28 1/2% 2092	109	Anglo American 28 1/2% 2092	109
Anglo American 29 1/2% 2097	110	Anglo American 29 1/2% 2097	110
Anglo American 30 1/2% 2102	111	Anglo American 30 1/2% 2102	111
Anglo American 31 1/2% 2107	112	Anglo American 31 1/2% 2107	112
Anglo American 32 1/2% 2112	113	Anglo American 32 1/2% 2112	113
Anglo American 33 1/2% 2117	114	Anglo American 33 1/2% 2117	114
Anglo American 34 1/2% 2122	115	Anglo American 34 1/2% 2122	115
Anglo American 35 1/2% 2127	116	Anglo American 35 1/2% 2127	116
Anglo American 36 1/2% 2132	117	Anglo American 36 1/2% 2132	117
Anglo American 37 1/2% 2137	118	Anglo American 37 1/2% 2137	118
Anglo American 38 1/2% 2142	119	Anglo American 38 1/2% 2142	119
Anglo American 39 1/2% 2147	120	Anglo American 39 1/2% 2147	120
Anglo American 40 1/2% 2152	121	Anglo American 40 1/2% 2152	121
Anglo American 41 1/2% 2157	122	Anglo American 41 1/2% 2157	122
Anglo American 42 1/2% 2162	123	Anglo American 42 1/2% 2162	123
Anglo American 43 1/2% 2167	124	Anglo American 43 1/2% 2167	124
Anglo American 44 1/2% 2172	125	Anglo American 44 1/2% 2172	125
Anglo American 45 1/2% 2177	126	Anglo American 45 1/2% 2177	126
Anglo American 46 1/2% 2182	127	Anglo American 46 1/2% 2182	127
Anglo American 47 1/2% 2187	128	Anglo American 47 1/2% 2187	128
Anglo American 48 1/2% 2192	129	Anglo American 48 1/2% 2192	129
Anglo American 49 1/2% 2197	130	Anglo American 49 1/2% 2197	130
Anglo American 50 1/2% 2202	131	Anglo American 50 1/2% 2202	131
Anglo American 51 1/2% 2207	132	Anglo American 51 1/2% 2207	132
Anglo American 52 1/2% 2212	133	Anglo American 52 1/2% 2212	133
Anglo American 53 1/2% 2217	134	Anglo American 53 1/2% 2217	134
Anglo American 54 1/2% 2222	135	Anglo American 54 1/2% 2222	135
Anglo American 55 1/2% 2227	136	Anglo American 55 1/2% 2227	136
Anglo American 56 1/2% 2232	137	Anglo American 56 1/2% 2232	137
Anglo American 57 1/2% 2237	138	Anglo American 57 1/2% 2237	138
Anglo American 58 1/2% 2242	139	Anglo American 58 1/2% 2242	139
Anglo American 59 1/2% 2247	140	Anglo American 59 1/2% 2247	140
Anglo American 60 1/2% 2252	141	Anglo American 60 1/2% 2252	141
Anglo American 61 1/2% 2257	142	Anglo American 61 1/2% 2257	142
Anglo American 62 1/2% 2262	143	Anglo American 62 1/2% 2262	143
Anglo American 63 1/2% 2267	144	Anglo American 63 1/2% 2267	144
Anglo American 64 1/2% 2272	145	Anglo American 64 1/2% 2272	145
Anglo American 65 1/2% 2277	146	Anglo American 65 1/2% 2277	146
Anglo American 66 1/2% 2282	147	Anglo American 66 1/2% 2282	147
Anglo American 67 1/2% 2287	148	Anglo American 67 1/2% 2287	148
Anglo American 68 1/2% 2292	149	Anglo American 68 1/2% 2292	149
Anglo American 69 1/2% 2297	150	Anglo American 69 1/2% 2297	150
Anglo American 70 1/2% 2302	151	Anglo American 70 1/2% 2302	151
Anglo American 71 1/2% 2307	152	Anglo American 71 1/2% 2307	152
Anglo American 72 1/2% 2312	153	Anglo American 72 1/2% 2312	153
Anglo American 73 1/2% 2317	154	Anglo American 73 1/2% 2317	154
Anglo American 74 1/2% 2322	155	Anglo American 74 1/2% 2322	155
Anglo American 75 1/2% 2327	156	Anglo American 75 1/2% 2327	156
Anglo American 76 1/2% 2332	157	Anglo American 76 1/2% 2332	157
Anglo American 77 1/2% 2337	158	Anglo American 77 1/2% 2337	158
Anglo American 78 1/2% 2342	159	Anglo American 78 1/2% 2342	159
Anglo American 79 1/2% 2347	160	Anglo American 79 1/2% 2347	160
Anglo American 80 1/2% 2352	161	Anglo American 80 1/2% 2352	161
Anglo American 81 1/2% 2357	162	Anglo American 81 1/2% 2357	162
Anglo American 82 1/2% 2362	163	Anglo American 82 1/2% 2362	163
Anglo American 83 1/2% 2367	164	Anglo American 83 1/2% 2367	164
Anglo American 84 1/2% 2372	165	Anglo American 84 1/2% 2372	165
Anglo American 85 1/2% 2377	166	Anglo American 85 1/2% 2377	166
Anglo American 86 1/2% 2382	167	Anglo American 86 1/2% 2382	167
Anglo American 87 1/2% 2387	168	Anglo American 87 1/2% 2387	168
Anglo American 88 1/2% 2392	169	Anglo American 88 1/2% 2392	169
Anglo American 89 1/2% 2397	170	Anglo American 89 1/2% 2397	170
Anglo American 90 1/2% 2402	171	Anglo American 90 1/2% 2402	171
Anglo American 91 1/2% 2407	172	Anglo American 91 1/2% 2407	172
Anglo American 92 1/2% 2412	173	Anglo American 92 1/2% 2412	173
Anglo American 93 1/2% 2417	174	Anglo American 93 1/2% 2417	174
Anglo American 94 1/2% 2422	175	Anglo American 94 1/2% 2422	175
Anglo American 95 1/2% 2427	176	Anglo American 95 1/2% 2427	176
Anglo American 96 1/2% 2432	177	Anglo American 96 1/2% 2432	177
Anglo American 97 1/2% 2437	178	Anglo American 97 1/2% 2437	178
Anglo American 98 1/2% 2442	179	Anglo American 98 1/2% 2442	179
Anglo American 99 1/2% 2447	180	Anglo American 99 1/2% 2447	180
Anglo American 100 1/2% 2452	181	Anglo American 100 1/2% 2452	181
Anglo American 101 1/2% 2457	182	Anglo American 101 1/2% 2457	182
Anglo American 102 1/2% 2462	183	Anglo American 102 1/2% 2462	183
Anglo American 103 1/2% 2467	184	Anglo American 103 1/2% 2467	184
Anglo American 104 1/2% 2472	185	Anglo American 104 1/2% 2472	185
Anglo American 105 1/2% 2477	186	Anglo American 105 1/2% 2477	186
Anglo American 106 1/2% 2482	187	Anglo American 106 1/2% 2482	187
Anglo American 107 1/2% 2487	188	Anglo American 107 1/2% 2487	188
Anglo American 108 1/2% 2492	189	Anglo American 108 1/2% 2492	189
Anglo American 109 1/2% 2497	190	Anglo American 109 1/2% 2497	190
Anglo American 110 1/2% 2502	191	Anglo American 110 1/2% 2502	191
Anglo American 111 1/2% 2507	192	Anglo American 111 1/2% 2507	192
Anglo American 112 1/2% 2512	193	Anglo American 112 1/2% 2512	193
Anglo American 113 1/2% 2517	194	Anglo American 113 1/2% 2517	194
Anglo American 114 1/2% 2522	195	Anglo American 114 1/2% 2522	195
Anglo American 115 1/2% 2527	196	Anglo American 115 1/2% 2527	196
Anglo American 116 1/2% 2532	197	Anglo American 116 1/2% 2532	197
Anglo American 117 1/2% 2537	198	Anglo American 117 1/2% 2537	198
Anglo American 118 1/2% 2542	199	Anglo American 118 1/2% 2542	199
Anglo American 119 1/2% 2547	200	Anglo American 119 1/2% 2547	200
Anglo American 120 1/2% 2552	201	Anglo American 120 1/2% 2552	201
Anglo American 121 1/2% 2557	202	Anglo American 121 1/2% 2557	202
Anglo American 122 1/2% 2562	203	Anglo American 122 1/2% 2562	203
Anglo American 123 1/2% 2567	204	Anglo American 123 1/2% 2567	204
Anglo American 124 1/2% 2572	205	Anglo American 124 1/2% 2572	205
Anglo American 125 1/2% 2577	206	Anglo American 125 1/2% 2577	206
Anglo American 126 1/2% 2582	207	Anglo American 126 1/2% 2582	207
Anglo American 127 1/2% 2587	208	Anglo American 127 1/2% 2587	208
Anglo American 128 1/2% 2592	209	Anglo American 128 1/2% 2592	209
Anglo American 129 1/2% 2597	210	Anglo American 129 1/2% 2597	210
Anglo American 130 1/2% 2602	211	Anglo American 130 1/2% 2602	211
Anglo American 131 1/2% 2607	212	Anglo American 131 1/2% 2607	212
Anglo American 132 1/2% 2612	213	Anglo American 132 1/2% 2612	213
Anglo American 133 1/2% 2617	214	Anglo American 133 1/2% 2617	214
Anglo American 134 1/2% 2622	215	Anglo American 134 1/2% 2622	215
Anglo American 135 1/2% 2627	216	Anglo American 135 1/2% 2627	216
Anglo American 136 1/2% 2632	217	Anglo American 136 1/2% 2632	217
Anglo American 137 1/2% 2637	218	Anglo American 137 1/2% 2637	218
Anglo American 138 1/2% 2642	219	Anglo American 138 1/2% 2642	219
Anglo American 139 1/2% 2647	220	Anglo American 139 1/2% 2647	220
Anglo American 140 1/2% 2652	221	Anglo American 140 1/2% 2652	221
Anglo American 141 1/2% 2657	222	Anglo American 141 1/2% 2657	222
Anglo American 142 1/2% 2662	223	Anglo American 142 1/2% 2662	223
Anglo American 143 1/2% 2667	224	Anglo American 143 1/2% 2667	224
Anglo American 144 1/2% 2672	225	Anglo American 144 1/2% 2672	225
Anglo American 145 1/2% 2677	226	Anglo American 145 1/2% 2677	226
Anglo American 146 1/2% 2682	227	Anglo American 146 1/2% 2682	227
Anglo American 147 1/2% 2687	228	Anglo American 147 1/2% 2687	228
Anglo American 148 1/2% 2692	229	Anglo American 148 1/2% 2692	229
Anglo American 149 1/2% 2697	230	Anglo American 149 1/2% 2697	230
Anglo American 150 1/2% 2702	231	Anglo American 150 1/2% 2702	231
Anglo American 151 1/2% 2707	232	Anglo American 151 1/2% 2707	232
Anglo American 152 1/2% 2712	233	Anglo American 152 1/2% 2712	233
Anglo American 153 1/2% 2717	234	Anglo American 153 1/2% 2717	234
Anglo American 154 1/2% 2722	235	Anglo American 154 1/2% 2722	235
Anglo American 155 1/2% 2727	236	Anglo American 155 1/2% 2727	236
Anglo American 156 1/2% 2732	237	Anglo American 156 1/2% 2732	237
Anglo American 157 1/2% 2737	238	Anglo American 157 1/2% 2737	238
Anglo American 158 1/2% 2742	239	Anglo American 158 1/2% 2742	239
Anglo American 159 1/2% 2747	240	Anglo American 159 1/2% 2747	240
Anglo American 160 1/2% 2752	241	Anglo American 160 1/2% 2752	241
Anglo American 161 1/2% 2757	242	Anglo American 161 1/2% 2757	242
Anglo American 162 1/2% 2762	243	Anglo American 162 1/2% 2762	243
Anglo American 163 1/2% 2767	244	Anglo American 163 1/2% 2767	244
Anglo American 164 1/2% 2772	245	Anglo American 164 1/2% 2772	245
Anglo American 165 1/2% 2777	246	Anglo American 165 1/2% 2777	246
Anglo American 166 1/2% 2782	247	Anglo American 166 1/2% 2782	247
Anglo American 167 1/2% 2787	248	Anglo American 167 1/2% 2787	248
Anglo American 168 1/2% 2792	249	Anglo American 168 1/2% 2792	249
Anglo American 169 1/2% 2797	250	Anglo American 169 1/2% 2797	250
Anglo American 170 1/2% 2802	251	Anglo American 170 1/2% 2802	251
Anglo American 171 1/2% 2807	252	Anglo American 171 1/2% 2807	252
Anglo American 172 1/2% 2812	253	Anglo American 172 1/2% 2812	253
Anglo American 173 1/2% 2817	254	Anglo American 173 1/2% 2817	254
Anglo American 174 1/2% 2822	255	Anglo American 174 1/2% 2822	255
Anglo American 175 1/2% 2827	256	Anglo American 175 1/2% 2827	256
Anglo American 176 1/2% 2832	257	Anglo American 176 1/2% 2832	257
Anglo American 177 1/2% 2837	258	Anglo American 177 1/2% 2837	258
Anglo American 178 1/2% 2842	259	Anglo American 178 1/2% 2842	259
Anglo American 179 1/2% 2847	260	Anglo American 179 1/2% 2847	260
Anglo American 180 1/2% 2852	261	Anglo American 180 1/2% 2852	261
Anglo American 181 1/2% 2857	262	Anglo American 181 1/2% 2857	262
Anglo American 182 1/2% 2862	263	Anglo American 182 1/2% 2862	263
Anglo American 183 1/2% 2867	264	Anglo American 183 1/2% 2867	264
Anglo American 184 1/2% 2872	265	Anglo American 184 1/2% 2872	265
Anglo American 185 1/2% 2877	266	Anglo American 185 1/2% 2877	266
Anglo American 186 1/2% 2882	267	Anglo American 186 1/2% 2882	267
Anglo American 187 1/2% 2887	268	Anglo American 187 1/2% 2887	268
Anglo American 188 1/2% 2892	269	Anglo American 188 1/2% 2892	269
Anglo American 189 1/2% 2897	270	Anglo American 189 1/2% 2897	270
Anglo American 190 1/2% 2902	271	Anglo American 190 1/2% 2902	271
Anglo American 191 1/2% 2907	272	Anglo American 191 1/2% 2907	272
Anglo American 192 1/2% 2912	273	Anglo American 192 1/2% 2912	273
Anglo American 193 1/2% 2917	274	Anglo American 193 1/2% 2917	274
Anglo American 194 1/2% 2922	275	Anglo American 194 1/2% 2922	275
Anglo American 195 1/2% 2927	276	Anglo American 195 1/2% 2927	276
Anglo American 196 1/2% 2932	277	Anglo American 196 1/2% 2932	277
Anglo American 197 1/2% 2937	278	Anglo American 197 1/2% 2937	278
Anglo American 198 1/2% 2942	279	Anglo American 198 1/2% 2942	279
Anglo American 199 1/2% 2947	280	Anglo American 199 1/2% 2947	280
Anglo American 200 1/2% 2952	281	Anglo American 200 1/2% 2952	281
Anglo American 201 1/2% 2957	282	Anglo American 201 1/2% 2957	282
Anglo American 202 1/2% 2962	283	Anglo American 202 1/2% 2962	283
Anglo American 203 1/2% 2967	284	Anglo American 203 1/2% 2967	

for foreign
exchange

Argentine oilseeds sale quotas

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 4 EXPORTS of several oilseed subproducts are now subject to a quota system, the Ministry of Commerce announced here today.

A Ministry statement said a Government decree ruled that exports of sunflowerseed, cottonseed, groundnut and soyabean cakes, expellers pellets and meal would be allowed in the proportion of one ton for export and two tons for domestic use.

The measure is aimed at securing domestic supplies of oilseed subproducts for mixed feeds and also at maintaining Argentine exports of oilseed subproducts to foreign markets.

The decree will take effect after its publication in the Customs Office bulletin, the statement added.

More sales of processed bacon likely

By Our Commodities Staff

THE MAJORITY of U.K. bacon buyers predict that processed packed, bacon sales will continue to expand over the next three years according to an Ulster Bacon Agency survey of trade attitudes.

About two thirds of the 200 major U.K. buyers replied to the survey and 70 per cent expected a significant increase in the market share of processed bacon.

The report also showed that back-end through-cut were by far the most popular products while collar seemed to lend itself to this form of point of sale presentation better than streaky.

More than half the buyers had noted an overall increase in total bacon sales in the past two years but a third said sales had been static.

Green bacon continued to dominate the market and 38 per cent of the respondents reported a drop in smoked bacon sales and only 23 per cent said smoked sales had risen.

GHANA COCOA FARMERS' BONUS

ACCRA, Sept. 4

The Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board has released 1,500 Cedis through seven licensed buying agents to be paid as bonus to cocoa farmers in respect of the 1972-73 main crop sold to the Board.

A statement issued by the Board said the bonus payable in respect of a ton of cocoa for grades one and two is three cedis.

Further fall for copper

By JOHN EDWARDS

COPPER PRICES lost ground again on the London Metal Exchange yesterday. Cash wires closed £12 down at £791 a metric ton, and fell further in late Korb dealings when the permissible limit down to 3 cents a pound.

The reopening of the New York copper market after the Labour Day holiday was watched with special interest to see whether the strong buying interest evident on Friday would be maintained. In the event it was not, since a feature of the market was a notable lack of consumer demand.

Borrowing cost

Significantly the cash price premium over the three months quotation narrowed further. The squeeze on immediately available supplies that has been a feature of the "bull" market this year appears to be easing at present. Indeed there were unconfirmed reports from the Continent of nearby stocks creeping up steadily. Although interest rates eased slightly yesterday, the high cost of borrowing money has encouraged consumers to reduce rather than build up stocks and explains why buying demand has been at such a low ebb.

The relative stability in the foreign exchange markets has

persuaded speculators to reduce their hedging purchases against currency uncertainties, as well as take their profits on forecasts that the market has "topped" out.

Nevertheless, some dealers were somewhat surprised by the ease of tone of the market in view of the overnight news from Chile that a "white collar" workers strike was going on strike in protest against President Allende's policies. If there is complete political chaos in Chile this could eventually disrupt even further supplies from the world's second biggest copper exporter. A direct threat to Chilean production is posed by the fact that labour contracts at the big five mines are due to expire shortly and unions are legally entitled to call strikes from September 30, if no agreement of new contracts is reached. The workers' demands are frighteningly by British standards - Exotica miners are asking for as much as a 50 per cent increase, but it should be borne in mind that the inflation rate in Chile has been considerable in the past year.

Looming in the background is uncertainty about President Allende's moves to obtain more control of the Zambian copper industry, including possibly the taking over of marketing.

Sherry price rising

By OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MADRID, Sept. 4

THE QUANTITY and quality of this year's Spanish sherry grape crop is better than last year, but there will almost certainly be price increases in the near future. This is the view taken in the Jerez region of Southern Spain, where harvesting of the grape crop has begun against a background of blights and dampness during the 26th Sherry Vintage Festival, organised by sherry exporters.

Reasons for the higher prices predicted are the rise in labour costs and higher taxes. More than 200 specialist vineyard workers recently went on strike to back a claim for higher wages. A provisional settlement was reached in most vineyards, but the strikers demands for a 1000 (about £7) per day is expected to trigger off claims by semi-skilled and unskilled workers for more pay.

According to statements made by leading sherry producers and exporters, the current export boom is expected to continue and production and demand will be

Big commodity market falls in Japan

TOKYO, Sept. 4.

PRICES on almost all Japanese commodity exchanges fell sharply today in a rush of selling and profit-taking.

On the cotton yarn exchange in Osaka, the Rubber Exchange in Tokyo, spun rayon yarn market in Nagoya and red beans in markets in Osaka and Nagoya. The reason for the fall was the monthly position fall to the day's permitted limits.

Market sources said factors in the price declines included high domestic stocks of imported crude rubber and a fall in Singapore rubber market. Exports of red bean crop in Japan, a reaction against high prices in the cotton yarn market, record stocks of woolen textile yarns at the woolen textile centre near Nagoya, and fears of a new cut in Chinese silk prices.

Eastern rubber trading change

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept. 4.

SINGAPORE rubber dealers have started buying Malaysian rubber on Malaysian Exchange contracts to meet their overseas commitments, rubber dealers here said. Inquiries from the Malaysian rubber centre near Singapore have been pouring in before trading began.

This follows the decision by Malaysia to have its own rubber exchange independent and free from foreign countries including Singapore.

It was also decided that Singapore, like any other foreign country, could trade with Malaysia Exchange contracts.

The interchangeability of the Malaysian Rubber Exchange with the Singapore Rubber Association were cut off on August 20.

IRISH BUTTER TO BE CHEAPER

By Our Commodities Staff

MANY LEADING supermarket groups are to reduce the price of Irish butter to 25p a lb, half pence, the Irish Dairy Board announced yesterday. Over the weekend the Board said the wholesale price of Kerrygold was being cut by 2p to 21p a pound, but is now predicting further reductions in the shops to as little as 19p a lb, a pound in some multiple stores.

The intention of these price cuts, says the Board, is to increase its share of the U.K. butter market from 10 per cent to 25 per cent in 1978.

INDIA'S FOOD SITUATION

By KEVIN RAFFERTY, ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE floods which have been wreaking havoc across northern India show how good the prospects are for the main monsoon rice crop. But before the lush green waterlogged paddy can be harvested, India faces what many experts predict will be a "famine situation" in a number of areas. Beyond this, the food grain crisis poses important questions concerning the management of the Indian economy.

The reason why the monsoon will have little immediate effect, apart from an important psychological one, is that it will be two months before the present crop is ready. Until then, food supplies are dependent upon what is left of last year's kharif (monsoon) crop and the spring rabi crop. Official figures for these crops are not yet available, but the best guess is that "India will have to tighten its belt by 6 per cent."

A 6 per cent belt-tightening might not seem much, but it assumes that the distribution of food is even and that the fact that if 2,000 calories a day (a typical western average) are regarded as desirable, then Indians in a normal year are 200 per cent deficient. One set of experts carefully calculated that imports reached 600,000 tons in 1972, per capita foodgrain availability would be about 155 kilograms or slightly higher than the 148 kg of the previous 10 years of 1966 and 1967. The experts say, is "just tolerable."

The most optimistic estimate of the total locally-produced foodgrains available for the 1972-73 year is about 95m tons "if they are lucky," nearly 10m tons below last year's production, 105m tons below the record 1970-71 year, and about 18m tons below the original Government target. The failure of the monsoon last year shattered the kharif hopes. A crash programme was started to raise the rabi crop, which consists mainly of wheat, by 15m tons over the 4m tons in 1972-73, but combined shortages of fertiliser, power, surface water, poor seed, an outbreak of yellow rust, and continued effects of the drought meant that this was over-optimistic.

In addition, when the crop was actually harvested it was found that although the ears looked good, the grain in them was shrunken, probably because of exceptionally hot weather and lack of irrigation.

The Government has meanwhile run down its buffer stocks from about 8m tons in June 1972 to below 4m tons. As about 2m tons is the minimum allowing some flexibility and since the

Government has to distribute something over 1m tons a month through the public distribution system, by mid-September the buffer stocks will be running out. An extra 1m tons will be needed by the end of September, and an additional 1m for October. This means that the Indian Government has to buy grain, and buy it fast.

The trouble is that there is not much grain to spare in the world. Transport costs are high and transportation slow. An Indian ship to the U.S. has been instructed to buy 4.5m tons to add to the 2m tons bought abroad earlier this year, but is finding

that the only grain available is in pocket-sized packets of about 20,000 tons a year, scattered widely over the U.S. Even if it can succeed in buying the grain, the likelihood of putting it together, getting it to port for shipping to India (six weeks away from Houston), and then distributing it through the vast subcontinent in time seems to tighten their belts.

What this means is complicated. An immediate assessment would be that rural areas have probably kept enough grain for their own purposes, and the pinch will be felt in the cities, through the 200,000 depleted Government ration shops. This is a static analysis, and ignores the pulling power of city money. The higher prices that can be fetched in the cities will draw the grain from the villages, and it will be the poorest people in the cities who will suffer. There are already signs of this happening. In the shabby towns of Rajasthan, for example, it is possible at high prices to buy up to 6 kg of wheat. Further down the road only 4kg are available, and in the remote rural villages reports are that figures have dropped to 2kg and even 1kg.

The recent heavy rains may

dotted over India will be unnoticed: a few deaths might be attributed to starvation; most will be blamed on an assorted combination of other diseases, aided by lack of food.

The crisis leaves serious questions over the Government's handling of it. Mrs. Gandhi's antipathy towards Mr. Nixon and her insistence that she would not beg for food is one factor. There is the question of how much grain is really available in the U.S. and at what price, but had relations been better it would probably have been easier for India to find it.

The policy decision to run down the buffer stock last year rather than enter the world grain market then was (in retrospect) a serious miscalculation. Mrs. Gandhi argues that she did not want to cause panic by rushing on to the market and sending prices sky-high. But other people did push in first. This defence fails to take account of the limited world grain store, especially after the big power grain deals. India should have been buying in August last year when it was clear that the monsoon was bad. In September the size of the mammoth U.S. deal with the Soviet Union became clear, but still India held its ground. By November it was apparent

that the monsoon harvests had failed all over S. and S.E. Asia, but still India kept out of the market, possibly because Mrs. Gandhi believed that the country could scrape through. She miscalculated, and since then grain prices have doubled and India still has to buy. It has also not been the best of time for the Government to attempt to rationalise the domestic wheat trade. A Western expert commented: "The Indian Government, for example, decided to take over wheat procurement, planning carefully they could have done it in about a year. Here they expected it to be done at the scratching of a pretty rusty pen. It is clear it has not worked." Public wheat procurement has probably been lower this year than in the previous two and private traders seem to have continued to do good business.

The longer-term effects of last year's bad monsoon and India's miscalculations will run for years to come. Unless India has three years' excellent monsoon and grain prices fall, it will have to buy on the world market to restore the buffer stock. In states like Maharashtra and Rajasthan where the drought was most severe, it is estimated that 1970-71 number of draught animals is the same, and a number of farmers are unlikely ever to return to the land.

The inevitable question remains: how long will it take before the fight for self-sufficiency in food? Until the bad monsoon its supporters could point out that although the annual rate of increase in foodgrain demand in the 1950s was between 2.5 and 2.9 per cent a year (including a 2.3 per cent population increase), the rate of increase in food production was a little over 3 per cent. Total foodgrain production rose from 65.9m tons in 1955-56 to 107.5m tons in the record 1970-71 year. Until about 1960 the increase came from an increase in area, but since then it has mainly derived from high yields. The predictions of the 1960s that permanent famine would be averted by 1975 have not been fulfilled.

Although according to some projections, India would need more than 160m tons of cereals and nearly 20m tons of pulses by 1981, and nearly 230m tons of grain and foodgrains by 2000AD, many hard-headed people are convinced that given proper planning India could meet even these requirements. The irrigated areas could be expanded, and the Green Revolution is only just beginning to affect rice. Still, some one has to devise a regular manner of harnessing the wind whims of the monsoon, so one year in five India can expect to have its hopeful targets lowered.

ALL-INDIA INDEX NUMBERS OF FOODGRAINS AND NON-FOODGRAINS

(Base: Triennium ending 1961-62=100)

Area under Crops	Foodgrains		Non-Foodgrains		Yield
	Foodgrains	Non-Foodgrains	Foodgrains	Non-Foodgrains	
1949-50	85.0	69.6	74.9	68.1	87.9
1953-54	92.7	80.7	89.0	72.0	96.4
1957-58	94.2	81.7	91.7	82.3	94.7
1961-62	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1965-66	99.1	104.2	89.9	107.1	98.6
1966-67	99.3	105.6	91.9	107.7	97.4
1967-68	104.6	106.5	117.1	115.6	108.1
1968-69	103.7	107.7	115.7	115.2	109.1
1969-70	106.4	106.4	120.0	112.1	106.5
1970-71	106.4	106.4	123.9	127.0	112.2
1971-72	105.2	109.1	130.9	126.0	111.5

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Economics and Statistics

COMMODITY MARKET REPORTS AND PRICES

BASE METALS

COPPER—Ample lower in trading on the London Metal Exchange. Important factors included the high level of interest rates and lack of outside demand coupled with a fall in the price of copper. The increasing availability of nearby supplies of copper on the Continent and a further reduction in the back wardation on wirebars. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	791.5	-10	792.5	-10
3 months	792.5	-10	793.5	-10
6 months	793.5	-10	794.5	-10
9 months	794.5	-10	795.5	-10
12 months	795.5	-10	796.5	-10
15 months	796.5	-10	797.5	-10
18 months	797.5	-10	798.5	-10
21 months	798.5	-10	799.5	-10
24 months	799.5	-10	800.5	-10

LEAD—Fractionally firmer following a modest amount of interest shown in cash metal during the morning market. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

ZINC—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 2,500 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	275.5	-1.5	276.5	-1.5
3 months	276.5	-1.5	277.5	-1.5
6 months	277.5	-1.5	278.5	-1.5
9 months	278.5	-1.5	279.5	-1.5
12 months	279.5	-1.5	280.5	-1.5
15 months	280.5	-1.5	281.5	-1.5
18 months	281.5	-1.5	282.5	-1.5
21 months	282.5	-1.5	283.5	-1.5
24 months	283.5	-1.5	284.5	-1.5

IRON—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

NON-FEEL METALS

ALUMINUM—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

NICKEL—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

SILVER—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

PLATINUM—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

PALE—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

GRAIN FUTURES MARKETS

WHEAT—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

BARLEY—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7
3 months	177.5	-7	178.5	-7
6 months	178.5	-7	179.5	-7
9 months	179.5	-7	180.5	-7
12 months	180.5	-7	181.5	-7
15 months	181.5	-7	182.5	-7
18 months	182.5	-7	183.5	-7
21 months	183.5	-7	184.5	-7
24 months	184.5	-7	185.5	-7

RYE—Firmly held under the impact of a combination of factors. Turnover 10,000 tons.

	Official	±	Unofficial	±
Cash	176.5	-7	177.5	-7

COMPANY NEWS

T & C confident of continued growth

MR. B. D. EAST, chairman of Town and City Properties, remains confident that growth of the group will continue at an "impressive rate" and he believes that T. & C. is "well poised to meet the changes and challenges of the future."

In the year ended March 31, 1973, group net profit increased from £2,440m. to £3,760m. and the dividend is 26.25 per cent. (25 per cent.) as reported August 4. Despite the difficulties of the year the group is "more firmly based than ever before."

It possesses a large and high quality commercial property investment portfolio and a massive property development programme which will ensure the continuance of the upward trend of the group's business, says the chairman.

The potential in the acquisition of Central and District Properties and of Stourton and the group will "contribute substantially to growth. One of the effects will be to increase property assets from £235m. to around £350m. and to expand the ordinary share development programme from £300m. to over £450m."

A geographical spread of group property assets of £356.67m. shows: U.K. £200.7m.; France £13.6m.; Belgium £11.6m.; Netherlands £7.2m.; Australia £10m.; and U.S. £5.2m.

A surplus valuation revealed a surplus (after minorities) of £170.53m. over book. In the result net assets attributable to holders at March 31 amounted to £227.48m., representing a net asset value of 50p per ordinary share.

The chairman points out that in arriving at the valuation of properties in course of development no account has been taken of any further improvement in value which will occur when each is completed and fully let.

Regarding the U.K. investment properties he says that a report from Healey and Baker, dated March 31, 1973, has been received and that there has been a further appreciation in value.

It has been decided that in future a valuation of property assets will be made every two years.

The cost of development projects completed during the year was nearly £22m. Cost of projects in course of development is currently estimated at £119m., of which 92 per cent. will benefit T. & C. holders. It is anticipated that these projects will be completed as follows: 1973-74, £30m.; 1974-75, £21m.; 1975-76, £12m.; 1976-77, £20m.; 1977-78, £35m.

Cost of development projects anticipated to commence during 1973-75 is currently estimated at £130m., of which 72 per cent. will benefit T. & C. holders. Of this amount, developments costing some £m. will be commenced in 1973-74.

In addition and since March 31, 1973, commitments have been entered into for commercial and shopping development at Olympia, London, and Ilford, Essex respectively. Estimated cost of the acquisition of the developments is expected to aggregate not less than £34m.

Meeting, Dorchester Hotel W., September 26 at noon.

Trident TV tops target

AGAINST the half-year forecast of not less than £4m., pre-tax profit of Trident Television, parent of Yorkshire TV and Tyne Tees TV, reached £4.4m. for the year to May 31, 1973—£1.06m. better than the previous year.

Mr. J. Hanson, chairman, says the figures mark the solid growth in earnings per 10p share to 7.3p against 5.8p.

The final dividend recommended is 12.25 per cent. net, equivalent to 17p per share, making 26.25 per cent. gross, the permitted 5 per cent. increase over the previous year's 25 per cent. total.

Turnover 1972-73 1971-72
£24,000,000 £20,000,000
£24,000,000 £20,000,000
£24,000,000 £20,000,000
£24,000,000 £20,000,000

Final dividend £1.06m. 1972-73 1971-72
£1.06m. 1972-73 1971-72
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£1.06m. 1972-73 1971-72

Centrovincial sees more expansion

While the future must depend to some extent on Phase Three, the directors of Centrovincial Estates are confident that the growth in rental income and in the number of properties will continue.

They intend to increase the dividend level to 2.50p per share gross—1.75p net—as soon as permitted. As reported on August 17 net profit for the year ended March 25, 1973, was £285,513 (£283,600) and the dividend is 1.98575p (1.875p) per 20p share.

In the U.K. existing developments progressed satisfactorily and new developments were undertaken, the directors report at an estimated total cost of £9m.

Increased net rental income is attributable partly to new lettings and partly to rent reviews negotiated before the counter-inflation measures came into force. The rent standstill has not had any significant effect on the rental income, they state.

As known, arrangements have been made with General Accident Group for a new 25-year mortgage loan of £2.5m. and a further £7.5m. to be available as lease-back finance over a period of up to 10 years.

In Australia the programme of office development in Sydney and Melbourne is proceeding according to plan and some properties are now nearing completion; the whole programme will be completed towards the end of 1974.

Turning to Continental Europe the directors say that as a result of progress towards solving problems arising from the group's joint interests with its former Continental partners, they have been able to reappraise the prospects of property investment on the Continent.

Consequently since the end of 1972, they have agreed to acquire two further properties; an existing shop investment in The Hague, Holland, and a substantial office development in the centre of Paris.

The directors are also reviewing the situation in Spain to determine whether any of the remaining income-producing properties held are suitable for retention as investments.

Book value of group completed investment properties at March 25, 1973, was approximately £42m. Group net assets now amounting to £29.2m., not allowing for tax on any sale of investment properties. This is equivalent to 191.1p per share (128.3p).

Meeting, Winchester House, EC, October 2 at 3 p.m.

Order books are "extremely healthy," says the Board and the group continues to make good progress. The future is viewed with confidence.

A net interim dividend of 3.5 per cent. is declared, equivalent to 3 per cent. gross. The comparable figure last year was 3.2 per cent. after adjustment for the one-for-four scrip.

In the full year to January 31, 1973, pre-tax profit was £343,251 on which dividends were equal to 10.07 per cent.

Hill Samuel Professional Adviser Services (the new company formed in August by Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers) has introduced the Hill Samuel Personal Investment Management Service.

This is basically designed to secure professional investment management for the investor with £10,000 to £100,000 while still allowing him to retain his own professional adviser.

Investment portfolios will be individually tailored but the rule of thumb is that 30-70 per cent. of the portfolio will be in individual shares and the remainder in two or more of the eight Hill Samuel unit trusts.

Hill Samuel PMS will be responsible for all the administration of the portfolios and charges include a fixed sum of £100 per annum plus 1 per cent. of the value of the fund (excluding the amount invested in unit trusts).

comment

This is a follow-up to the Hill Samuel Personal Financial Service which has attracted over £5m. in portfolios in its first 18 months and is geared basically to the clients of Noble Lowndes. The new Personal Investment Management Service has the same charges and organisation but spreads the net wider to take in professional advisers (accountants and solicitors) at large. The service is more expensive than that operated by the clearing banks, but Hill Samuel reckons it can do better and there is an element of flexibility to the discretionary management. Dealing expenses are over and above the set charges and each portfolio must include a percentage in Hill Samuel unit trusts.

EBOR HIGH RETURN

The half-yearly report on the Ebor High Return Unit Trust shows that the latest distribution for the six months to July 15 is 103p per 100 units (77p) making a 1972-73 total of 171p against 149p.

HILL SAMUEL INT.

The distribution on Hill Samuel International Trust for the six months to July 12, 1973 is 0.927p per unit compared with 0.853p in the comparable period last year. This is because of the greater liquidity of the fund (25.4 per cent. at the year-end). The offer price of the units fell by 10.3 per cent.

Year to April 30
1973 1972
Turnover 1,302,550 4,003,377
Pre-tax profit 463,947 431,296
Tax 253,529 710,233
Net profit 1,048,998 3,293,144
Attributable 322,637 221,729
Dividends 16,354 26,230

Healthy order book for James Garnar

Demand is particularly strong from overseas, reports tanner and leather group James Garnar and Sons, announcing a profit up from £103,000 to £163,000 before tax of £180,000 (£21,000) for the half year to July 31, 1973.

turnover

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Equity down-drift

Equity prices drifted lower on small offerings coming to an untimely market. The market in ordinary shares is apparently discounting future company results and ignoring the very good earnings being reported by companies at present. The current price-earnings ratio on an imputation basis is in the region of only 13, compared with 19 six months ago.

The downward drift in equities was shown from the movement of the Financial Times Industrial Ordinary Share Index during August. From an end-July value of 65.77, it moved

steadily down to an all-time low since compilation of 63.87 on August 23, a fall of 3 per cent. It made up some of the lost ground over the last week of the month to end at 64.30.

The factors depressing the gilt-edged market had a similar effect on the equity sector. This was reinforced by fears of the possible reaction of company earnings arising from the yet-to-be-formulated Phase Three proposals. The likely industrial unrest this coming winter added to the depression.

The effect on gilt-edged prices was highlighted by the performance of the Financial Times Government Securities Index during August. From an end-July value of 65.77, it moved

reluctant to enter the market. The movement of interest rates to all-time high levels sent gilt-edged prices down to their lowest ever. This movement was reflected in the base rate of the clearing banks being pushed to 11 per cent. Currency weaknesses were carried over from the previous month and there were still further any confidence left in the sector.

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UNIT TRUSTS

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Meat and Poultry

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

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Last year alone we turned over nearly £240 million, another milestone in our year-by-year expansion.

We at FMC, owe our success in the world meat market to a progressive livestock industry and to strategic marketing. This partnership with livestock producers has enabled us to meet home requirements and those of the new enlarged market opened by EEC membership—and the markets of the world, including North America.

We work as a powerful trading group dealing in beef, lamb (including New Zealand lamb), pork, poultry (oven-ready chickens and turkeys), bacon and manufactured meat products.

FMC is Britain's biggest bacon curer through Marsh & Baxter Ltd and C & T Harris Ltd with their associated companies.

From these companies come both traditional Wiltshire-type bacon and the popular Sweetcure, plus sausages, cooked meats, pies of all sorts and sizes and a comprehensive range of canned meats, many distributed under the group's range of famous brand names.

But we don't stop there. Efficiently using by-products, or as they are sometimes called 'the fifth quarter', is an important part of our overall marketing operation. After all, we buy the whole carcase, which includes hides, skins, bones, etc, and we supply these non-edibles for conversion into glue, soap, fertilisers—and of course leather and wool.

FMC Men and Matters

Another vital factor in our success is personal contact. Individuals matter in FMC terms. Our men in the field work closely with farmers; our depot and factory managers with butchers, family grocers and large supermarkets—an unbroken link from farm gate to shop counter.

Looking Ahead

FMC is constantly alert to the increasing challenges of competitive markets at home and abroad.

That's why we spend large sums annually on modernisation and on increasing plant capacity. This expenditure helps us to expand production while keeping down costs.

Our plans, involving further plant and machinery improvements, are geared to cope with the changing pattern of demand—and increasing exports in areas as far afield as Hong Kong and Peru.

All pigs are NOT equal

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Meat and Poultry

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Prices dominate headlines

By ROBIN REEVES, Commodities Editor

Meat and poultry is not an industry to stay out of the news for very long but, by any standard, it has been the subject of an unprecedented wave of publicity over the past 12 months. The reason—steeply rising prices—hardly needs elaborating: there can hardly be a person in the country left unaware of what has happened to prices in an industry responsible for over 25 per cent. of total national expenditure on food. But for the record, Scottish beef is presently wholesaling at 27p to 30p a pound compared with 20.5p to 23.5p this time last year, English lamb at 26p to 30p a pound compared with 19.5p to 23.5p a year ago, pork at 17p to 22.5p against 11p to 17.5p and broiler chickens at 19.5p to 23p a pound compared with 14p to 15p a pound.

No industry could expect to pass on increases of this order unnoticed and certainly not at a time when the Government of the day is trying to fight inflation with the most rigorous prices and incomes controls since the war.

Granted the Government's decision to exempt fresh food from the price restraints code, it is reasonable for the man in the street to ask why the price of meat has suddenly shot up in price—what has gone wrong? The equally simple answer is that, if anything, things have gone too right. Throughout the world rising living standards have created a demand for meat which for the present at least has outstripped available supplies.

The net result is that the world meat economy has got out of balance and Britain, as a leading import market, has felt the effects of this to the full. The fact that it should have coincided with Britain's joining the European Economic Community

World demand

But while rising world beef demand has been the root cause of the meat price upsurge, there have been other factors at work. Some would trace it back to the decision of the original EEC members some four years ago to undertake the slaughter of 1m. cows in an attempt to reduce the build-up of the European butter mountain. A significant quantity of potential beef supplies were also lost in consequence. Another influence was the U.S. the world's single biggest beef market, where, in 1971, the maize crop was badly hit by disease and soaring maize prices threw the complex American cattle feedlot system out of gear for a time. Others would argue that what is really to blame is that for many years producing beef was an uncertain proposition economically; at one time or another somebody in the chain of production and distribution, whether it was the breeder, fatterer, wholesaler or retailer, was always liable to be losing money.

It is paradoxically also true that the crisis has been aggravated by the confidence which the growing demand for beef at increased prices gave to pro-

ducers everywhere. Instead of sending a steady number of cattle to slaughter, farmers almost everywhere began holding animals back to increase the size of their breeding herds. Old cows too were kept on for an extra calf, meaning delay in supplies of manufacturing beef.

Whatever the reasons, the net result has been that the promise of cheaper beef supplies, held out on several occasions in the last two years, has turned out to be a mirage. Indeed, last year the hard-pressed British housewife suddenly found herself competing with her Continental counterparts, as the original EEC members attempted to deal with their burgeoning demand and soaring prices for beef by opening up their market to greater imports.

The argument over whether or not the British Government should have curbed home-produced beef exports to the Continent will never be settled conclusively. Sufficient to say that the Government vehemently denied that it was inhibited by the possible political repercussions of such a move on the eve of EEC entry. It took the view that the country would end up worse off simply because imports from other sources, which still make up some 20 per cent. of Britain's beef supplies, would be diverted elsewhere. Moreover, at the height of the political row over meat prices last January it set up an independent panel of inquiry which came to the same conclusions.

The question everybody, both inside and outside the industry is asking is where beef prices go from here. Sooner or later, the consumer, and the distribution side of the industry, must start to reap the benefit of the build-up in beef supplies—even if Britain's adoption of the Common Market's beef support

system will limit the extent of any fall in prices to some 10 per cent. below present levels. Some would say that the process is already under way. A sign of the times is that only this week, the EEC restored the full duties on imported beef and cattle which, thanks to the complexities of the arrangements governing Britain's adoption of the CAP in full, could discourage U.K. beef exports and encourage greater imports.

New Zealand lamb

The trouble is that although beef may be more plentiful it may not be very much cheaper for very long because of what is happening in the other sectors of the meat industry. As far as lamb is concerned, New Zealand is expected to send a smaller quantity this winter because drought has markedly reduced this year's lamb crop. But overshadowing everything else is the fact that feedgrain prices have more than doubled in the past year and feed protein prices have gone up even more steeply.

It is true that the majority of the beef—and all lamb—is reared on grass and therefore its costs of production should not be greatly affected. But the dominant cost in pigs and poultry production is feed. Unless there is the prospect of a very sharp drop in grain prices from present levels, production of pigmeat and poultrymeat will simply not be an economic proposition at present prices.

The net result could be, first, an influx of supplies on to the market as producers cut their losses followed by a severe shortage and prices high enough to tempt producers back into business and make up for the doubling in compound feeding-stuff prices so far this year. Certainly, the rise in cereals prices has been quite unpre-

cedented in recent times. It is therefore difficult to avoid the conclusion that without some early relief on production costs, the reaction in meat prices could be equally dramatic.

All in all then, the meat and poultry industry is passing through a particularly trying period in its history. Whether this will accelerate change in what has been a generally slowly changing industry, nobody can be sure. There are plenty of experts to be found to argue that animals are very inefficient converters into protein and that before very long most people will be happy to eat simulated meat made from vegetable protein (though soybeans are also very expensive at the moment) and only occasionally buy the real thing sealed in a vacuum pack from the supermarket.

Yet most people remain remarkably conservative about food and particularly the most important item in their diet, meat. Although there has been a big swing to poultry meat at the expense of red meat in



Cutting for the customer in a High Street butchers.

recent years it is sometimes meats. Furthermore, for all the much alive and in business forgotten that chicken, and for talk of rationalising the chain the High Street. What that matter turkey, started out of distribution, the livestock not always offer in price with a luxury image which can auctions still flourish and the make up for through rail not be ascribed to simulated independent butcher is still very and service.

Predictions about EEC entry come to nought

By ROBIN REEVES

Under the Treaty of Accession it all looked reasonably straightforward. The meat industries of Britain and the rest of the world were to have a period of five years to adjust to the enlargement of the EEC to include the U.K., Denmark and Ireland. Between the time when Britain joined at the beginning of 1973 and the end of a transition period for adopting the Common Agricultural Policy in full—by 1978—the U.K.'s traditional policy of a home meat production industry supported by deficiency payments and a market open to beef supplies from anywhere in the world would steadily be phased out.

Gradually taking the place of this policy would be the higher-priced, more protectionist regime demanded by the Common Agricultural Policy. UK meat imports would become increasingly subject to the EEC's variable levies upholding minimum import prices and import duties ranging between 16 per cent. and 26 per cent. depending on the product in question.

All told, it was not one of the most welcome aspects of EEC membership, but spread over five years it was not thought to be too demanding on the British housewife's purse. It might bring some prosperity to some sections of the British meat industry, notably beef production, and it would also give overseas suppliers like Australia, New Zealand and Argentina time to develop alternative markets.

Open market

Well, as everyone now knows only too well, it hasn't worked out like that. But before explaining what has happened in practice it is perhaps worth noting that Britain was not quite the open market for meat supplies it sometimes appeared. Foreign suppliers of bacon were

subject to import quota arrangements as early as 1964. South America was discouraged from sending beef by the ban on in-bone meat imports following the 1967-68 foot and mouth epidemic. And at the beginning of the present decade, the new Conservative Government introduced a system of minimum import prices and levies for beef and duty on New Zealand lamb. Moreover, it asked New Zealand to try not to undermine the U.K. meat market and put up the deficiency payments bill by sending too much.

In these circumstances it could hardly be said that Britain was out to attract as much meat as it could at the cheapest price possible. But be that as it may, when the time actually arrived for Britain to join the EEC, the whole atmosphere of the world meat market had changed radically. Far from fighting to establish new outlets for its supplies, Britain's overseas suppliers have been experiencing no difficulty whatsoever in selling all the meat they can export.

Australia, for example, whose beef exports to the U.S. were at one stage subject to a voluntary quota have been given every incentive to send as much to America as possible to help undermine that country's growing beef shortage. Yet, in Japan, both Australia and New Zealand now have a rapidly expanding meat market much nearer their doorstep. Imports are rising rapidly and the meat is paid for in a currency which has been revaluing rather than devaluing.

In New Zealand, there has been distinct irony in the spectacle of Mr. Joseph Godber, the Minister of Agriculture, who was almost certainly behind the Tory plan to make U.K. imports of New Zealand lamb subject to duty, asking New Zealand to send as much lamb as it can and promising to fight for the best possible access terms into the enlarged EEC in the future.

In Britain itself, the effect of this general world meat shortage on the U.K. has of course been to give the British housewife a very strong foretaste of Common Market prices. Twice during 1972, the original EEC joined the scramble for world beef supplies by reducing its barriers against imports. On both occasions there was a sharp increase in U.K. and Irish beef and cattle imports to the Continent, at the expense of the British home market, and the second instance, U.K. beef prices shot up some 40 per cent. to virtually the same level as was ruling in the EEC. The U.K. supply situation was also not helped by the opening of the French market to U.K. lamb exports which were shipped across the Channel in large quantities.

Import duties

The near free market conditions in beef trade between Britain and the Continent lasted in fact until the beginning of this week, when the Community restored the import duties to 16 per cent. on live animals and 20 per cent. on carcass meat.

On the face of it, this appears to indicate that beef prices in the EEC are back to square one. But it is sometimes forgotten that as a result of this year's farm prices battle in Luxembourg, the general EEC beef price floor has been hoisted by 10.5 per cent. EEC beef prices have fallen back but to a higher floor price.

Yet paradoxically the workings of the trade arrangements with the Six could bring some further lowering in U.K. beef prices. British beef exports to the Continent are now liable to four-fifths of the full EEC duties. This should make

carcase exports to the Continent less attractive, while animal exports have in any event been banned since the humane grounds.

The same applies to Irish exports to the Continent the result that it is calculated that more Irish supplies be diverted to the U.K.

The other side of the coin is that Britain is required to duties against third country beef suppliers which includes traditional suppliers like Australia and Argentina. But, at the present stage transition period, these are relatively small and, over, they are subject to ment under the CAP as means for offsetting the of a devaluing currency of trade. There is a hope that the beef may be plentiful in the U.K. than been in the recent past.

In pigs and poultry, worries prior to Britain's accession to the Community first, that the U.K. pig in would suffer ruinous competition at the hands of Denmark once it was freed of its quota under the British Market. Understanding second, there would be competition between the tinental and U.K. poultry egg industries.

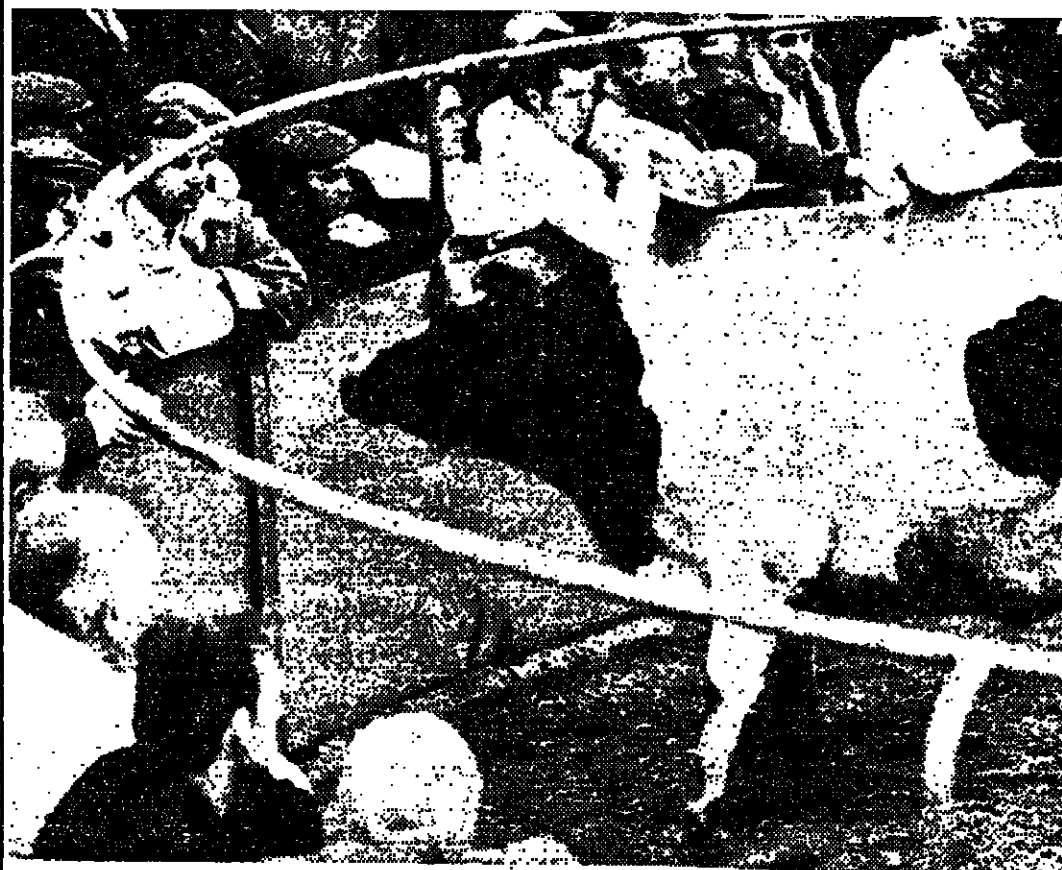
Nothing could have it out to be further from truth. Despite the phasing of the subsidy paid to I bacon curers and the put of a large export subsidy (penalty payment) on I bacon exports to Britain, I set the Danes' higher feed the market has gone strength to strength. Des in practice, quickly found able market for its pigs poultry) in the original SI was content to hoist the of its bacon in the U.K. as as the market could bear. are now difficulties in the industry but this is the of the steep rise in feed and not the Common Mar

Eggs industry

The eggs industry found in the same situation earlier on. It was bracing for an invasion of eggs from the Continent with the at a compensatory subsidy, Britain's accession to the Community very soon coincided the appearance of a crop shortage in Europe and prices have been going up since.

Poultrymeat of course has enjoying a buoyant market everywhere because of the red meat prices, although sections of the poultry industry now face the same cost difficulties as pigs.

In short, all the feverish calculations by politicians and industry of the EEC's effects have come to naught. Instead, the whole question adjustment has turned out to be totally overshadowed by the on the world meat and poultry markets. It will be some time before trade in meat and poultry starts to behave according to a programme laid out in the 1973 year transition period, if it happens at all.



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MEAT AND POULTRY III

Price rises boost farmers' confidence

J. O. CHERRINGTON, Agriculture Correspondent

The soaring prices for beef and lamb at the end of last year have done more to foster farmers' confidence in the future of the industry than all the subsidies and exhortations by successive Ministers of Agriculture. The price was indeed dramatic, by about £5 per live hundredweight £50 per head over the last 12 months of 1972. Since then the market, and it is standing at significantly lower levels than it did at the peak last year.

The rise meant that most farmers were receiving a profit well above their budgeted expectations, but the cost of their next cycle of production is soaring. For just as the price of the finished cattle was rising so was the cost of the raw materials needed for their production. Friesian bull calves rose by about £30 a head and other cattle in proportion. In most cases the profit had to be re-invested at a higher figure than the gain was no more than a temporary phenomenon.

The main beneficiaries have been dairy farmers selling their calves for fattening, and specialist breeders of store cattle from suckling herds on hill and lowland farms. The effect on dairy farmers has been particularly marked. Their returns from calf sales have been extremely high, best calves have been making between £50 and £80 depending on breed and quality at a week old, and a general surge in prices has carried over to the cull cow market as well, with fat Friesians making very nearly what they cost as first calf heifers.

Self finance

For the first time that I can remember, dairy farmers have been able to finance their own replacements almost entirely from the sale of calves and surplus stock, which will go some way to helping to pay for their very high feed costs this winter. Many dairy farmers of course raise their own calves for beef, especially where they have arable crops on the farm as well. But if a calf can be sold for £70 or so at three weeks old, there must be a great temptation to sell it, because at that figure there can never be as much profit left in it again.

In general, hill farmers failed to share in the last autumn's price boom to the fullest extent, because the main sales of

their stock were over by the time the rise started, although the prices received were already above the previous years. However, the message has got through now and as an illustration of present confidence the cost of cull beef cows and growing heifers has been at record levels.

Production of beef is certain to go up further as the total numbers of cattle in the United Kingdom has risen by one million since the June, 1972 returns and this increase will probably continue. However, forecasting the actual output of beef is no easy job. In spite of increased numbers on the farms last winter, slaughtering were actually less than they had been the year before.

For this there are a number of explanations. Increased numbers were being kept on in store condition because of the expense of feeding stuffs, to be fattened on summer grass. More of the females would be kept to add to the breeding herds. The number of cull heifers in England and Wales has increased by 80,000 from March, 1972, to March, 1973.

The price prospects for beef for the next six months are still very uncertain. There has been a slight fall in prices of fat steers, heifers and cull cows. This could well be due to a fall in the number exported. The export of live cattle for

slaughter has been stopped during the last month pending report of the committee set up to examine the traffic and there is the possibility that the EEC will reimpose the balance of its duties on beef imports in September. Beef exports played a significant part in the price boom last autumn, and although in the first quarter of 1973 they were still running at a high level, this was lower than those in the preceding quarter.

EEC price levels

There has been a marked price fall on the Continent from the very high levels established earlier in the year, and if this continues it could have a marked effect on British farmers' plans, as EEC prices would have been bound to be reflected in prices here.

This uncertainty makes it very difficult for farmers to plan their future output, the soaring costs of feeding stuffs alone make any calculations of the returns from beef a most inexact exercise. Many farmers will be inclined to play safe and winter their animals on forage materials, hay and silage from their own farms, and keep their animals to fatten out next summer on grass. The beef shortage that a wholesale adoption of this policy could bring would of itself be a means of price maintenance next winter.

There is no regulation and no support for sheep under EEC rules except the Common External Tariff. The U.K. price is guaranteed at the Price Review and in practice supported by the export of limited numbers, mainly to France. The lamb trade has been extremely good, and in spite of the gradual increase of the French tariffs, the home trade has kept well up, partly because consumers feel that lamb must be a better buy than beef at high prices. No subsidy has been needed for a number of months.

The increase of sheep population is slow about 4 per cent, but given a continuance of the present high prices is likely to be maintained. An encouraging feature is that young ewes are up 14 per cent. However, the scope of lamb production is limited by the expansion of stocks on lowland farms. The hill farms are already stocked. The attraction of grain and other arable and less demanding crops will probably keep this expansion to the minimum. Sheep however can thrive on the minimum of concentrated feeding stuffs, and are likely to be attractive to farmers while the present scarcity lasts.

Pig and poultry producers are going to face a difficult time as long as the very high price for feeding stuffs persists. There is in the EEC no direct support for poultry meat, and that for pigs is nothing like as substantial as the present British guarantee which until August 1 took the cost of feeding stuffs into account. This has now been abandoned, but the guarantee has for the moment been consolidated at the highest figure. The only clue to what will happen under full EEC membership terms is that in the six production of both these items has been highly cyclical, periods of high prices being followed by glut followed by shortages and high prices again.

Although sow and gilt numbers were up in the June returns there are now signs that the present shortages and difficulties with feed are having their effect.

Store pigs are becoming difficult to sell and this lack of confidence is bound to spread. However, nothing much can be done to reduce stocks in the pipeline, as all the pigs due to be produced over the next nine to ten months are either conceived or in the course of fattening.



Penned blackface sheep on a farm in Glen Clunie, Aberdeenshire.

Limits of new methods

J. O. CHERRINGTON

In spite of the expenditure a great deal of effort and money on all sorts of techniques the production of beef has not been achieved, has been limited. The great discovery that they fed ad lib to Friesian cows would produce a mature case for every two tons fed, founded beneath the high cost of barley and urea. Its substitute technique using grass and silage, and a limited amount of barley also shown signs of cumbering to the same inexact economic pressures.

The first system took about months to produce results, second about 18. To-day if you want to save the half ton so of barley that is needed the second winter, to comment the animals' diet of ge, you must keep them to through a second summer, there is a difficulty here. Friesian steer—and 70 per of all British dairy cattle, main source of beef, are lean—is more a grower than tender on grass, and will not mature on grass feeding. He is 2½ to 3 years old.

Not fashionable

Beef produced at this size excellent, although not fashionable in the British beef trade which has been used on small, well finished, asses, although it is what the tinular housewife is well to. The grazier would er to use a cross with a beef d; and several, the Hereford particular, cross extremely with the Friesian. These make use of in their life time. A calf born from this technique was shown at the last Royal Show and a number of successful twin births has also resulted. This is all in the experimental stage at present, but I can remember when artificial insemination of cattle was at the same stage more than 30 years ago.

Besides the possibilities opened by sex determination in modern breeding to-day, the

determination of sex on conception. If it were possible to do this, farmers would be able to set aside a limited number of their best cows for breeding their replacements, in the certainty that these would all produce heifers and the remainder could be made to produce beef cross calves.

Some work is going on in these fields, and Dutch researchers are claiming a 60 per cent. success rate. But this should not be taken as a complete breakthrough, as the sex ratio of calves born is 50:50 under normal breeding conditions. But it is at least a step in the right direction.

Another technique which has enormous possibilities is the development of twinning. At present the ratio of twins in cattle is about one in 80 births, about the same as in humans. If only cows could have the same ratio as sheep, say 50 per cent. of all pregnancies, the beef shortage world-wide would be solved. (Although feeding the increased cattle population might lead to problems.) The late Sir John Hammond at Cambridge tried to increase the percentage of twins by hormone treatment, but the trouble was that the pregnant cows had multiple conceptions with anything up to eight or 16 foetuses, and the experiment failed.

A new technique has been developed at Cambridge which involves implanting fertilised ova in the cow's uterus. So far success has been limited, but the possibilities are immense because cows produce many more ova than they can ever make use of in their life time. A calf born from this technique was shown at the last Royal Show and a number of successful twin births has also resulted. This is all in the experimental stage at present, but I can remember when artificial insemination of cattle was at the same stage more than 30 years ago.

Besides the possibilities opened by sex determination in modern breeding to-day, the

ing policies involving the importation of foreign breeds are relatively less important. Because most pedigree beef cattle breeders followed a policy of breeding smaller and smaller cattle, farmers looked for breeds which would make their calves bigger and grow faster. There were none to be had in Britain, so they thought, so they looked abroad. The first choice was the Charolais, and some were imported amid the howls of protest from most beef Breed Societies.

The Charolais has been followed by others, all of whose characteristics have been also, fairly quick growth rate, and the production of heavy carcasses with far less fat than used to be produced by British breeds when mature. I am not going to suggest that any of these breeds is better than the others, and for crossing with the Friesian some of the British breeds are probably superior. But there is no doubt that their importation has been an excellent thing for the industry.

One of the better ways of increasing meat production from any male animal is not to castrate it. Bulls and boars have a faster growth rate and a higher proportion of lean to fat than have castrates. Until very recently the production of bull beef was illegal because of the Bull Licensing Act. The practice though is widespread on the Continent, and it is being developed here. The trouble in present circumstances is that to be effective it should be used for young animals, and this would mean using concentrated feedingstuffs. In France, in particular, various methods of intensive bull fattening have proved uneconomic latterly, because the high costs of feed don't match the prices received on the market.

The objection to boar meat is based on what is called boar taint, but work at the Meat Research Institute has shown that the danger of this happening at the porker or baconer stage, is negligible and that boar mature

faster, and have lower fat proportions than castrates. There is no doubt that if the prejudice against boar meat were to be removed, and it's a prejudice based on tradition more than anything else, there would be scope for a significant breakthrough in production.

In connection with intensifying beef production a good deal has been made of the prospects of maize for silage but it is a crop which is not yet as well adapted to British conditions as it is to those in France. It is probable that there is still scope for improving the production from grass, and its efficient conservation is not yet sufficiently exploited by farmers.

Sheep have been the Cinderella of the British farm for many years, less money has been spent on their development than on any of the rest and a few years ago the Advisory Services were more or less advising their extinction on many farms where alternatives could be exploited.

New strains

A few pioneers have tried the hard way to breed new strains, with results that while satisfactory to them have not as yet caught on with the main run of farmers. What practical development that has gone on has been in techniques to adapt them to arable farms where it has been found that under proper management they can give very good returns indeed. The importance of this arable farm technique is that they can be grazed on fresh pastures which does enable them to keep free of the parasitic problems that are inseparable from old permanent pastures.

In conclusion it must be said that most of the above developments have been effected at a time when the industry was kept in a financial strait jacket. Now that prices are better there will be opportunities for a much more intensive development programme all round.

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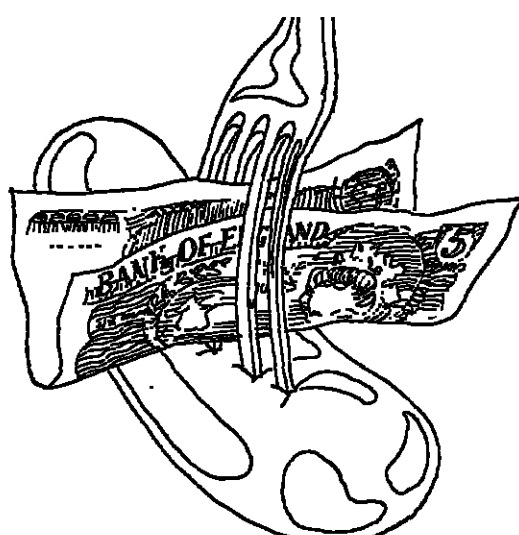
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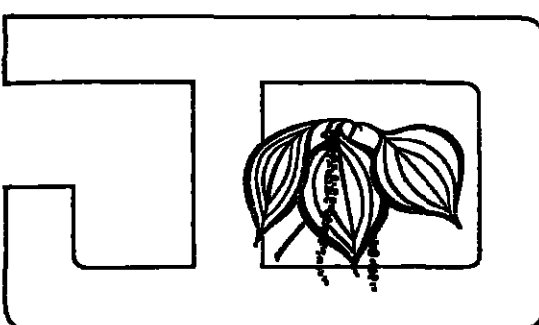
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MEAT AND POULTRY IV

Worst over for distributors

By R. J. LICKORISH, Editorial Director, Meat Trades Journal

Dragged protestingly towards European price structures during the past 18 months, the meat distributors of this country console themselves with hopes that the worst is over. Promised on many unforgotten occasions that transition from cheap meat days in this country to the realities of EEC values would be sedated by time, they found themselves propelled willy nilly into hitherto unexplored and seemingly exorbitant price dimensions.

It brought with it all the frustrations that accompany a situation where less meat had to bring more money into the till. It created the aggravations which all along the line go hand in hand with predominantly personal service and where customers who visit a shop two or three times a week and have to part with more money incline to take it out on the people behind the counter. In practical butchering terms it meant the knife and cleaver had to break down bulk into smaller and smaller pieces with the incidence of waste and loss rising proportionally as the commodity became more valuable.

Small wonder there were those momentous "beef rows" which, even if they talked meat

dear, at least had the merit of diverting the customers' attention away from face-to-face shop-floor confrontations and into the wider areas of world supply situations and political responsibilities for dearer food strategies.

Between January and March this year, retail prices of beef reached averages of 40 to 50 per cent higher than in the comparative 1972 period. This was not quite all, for in their search for some economy consumers went for the cheaper cuts, which consequently showed the highest rate of increase.

Pork prices

In the same period, home-produced lamb went up by 30 per cent, and frozen lambs by more than 40 per cent. Pork—that "fall-back" meat—increased in price by about a third, and poultry was given a bonus; frozen broilers fetching nearly 30 per cent more than they had in the 1972 months.

The cut-back in demand at the time of the "beef row" caused severe problems for wholesalers and, while the worst of this was short term, they have not seen since that time the buoyancy which they

require to trade well as bulk handlers.

In addition to a lack of resilience in the market place, the slaughterhouse operator has witnessed the outflow of livestock on the hoof to Europe. Loudest opposition to this has come from animal welfare organisations, but it is an undeniable fact that if this trade is stopped indefinitely—if it can be within the EEC context—and European exports are confined to meat "on the hoof," the large investments in abattoirs and plants in this country would be better utilised and probably more owners would be prepared to bring their premises up to EEC requirements. There would be the additional bonus of increasing the availability of edible offals, inedible by-products, hides, etc., to processors in this country.

By and large the higher price structure has not altered the patterns of procurement, although there has been a tendency for some producers to revert from deadweight to live weight sales on the rising market.

There has, however, been further growth in meat packing where, instead of marketing carcasses or quarters, the pro-

duct is processed at slaughter-point to a "market ready" stage in the form of primal cuts in cartons. The advantage here resides in the greater flexibility this provides. The restrictions on selling a carcass of beef as two sides or four quarters are giving way to the more profitable possibilities of diversifying into selections of cuts.

Traditional methods of distributing meat still account for the majority of sales, but the facilities for breaking down carcass meat have increased.

One particular section which showed great strides in the provisioning of domestic freezers. This has become big business and a reasonable prediction is that it may account for as much as 10 per cent of retail meat sales by 1980. The attraction for the butcher is the bulk cash sale potential together with the ability to market other frozen products: ready-to-bake items, ice-cream, vegetables, etc., direct to meat purchasers.

One advantage for the butcher here is his ability to use his craft to cut meat the way his customers are used to and in technical know-how in quality control, hygiene, freezing techniques and general temperature control.

Larger butchers and some plants have created extensive departments to butcher and make up packs for the big freezer firms that have become so prosperous.

This freezer trade is obviously here to stay and it is something of a surprise to the meat traditionalist that the "carriage trade" type of customer who now owns a freezer will so willingly eat frozen meat when not so long ago "farm fresh" only would have suited him.

Cheaper end

The acceptance of frozen meat puts a new dimension into what has been the cheaper end of the market, historically anyway. The probabilities are that the quality for quality the differences in cost between the frozen and fresh product will diminish with a consequently enlarged market for the former.

This will extend the scope for overseas shipments of market-ready and portion control packs of beef and lamb which are already increasing for the catering trade. Possibly the rate of progress in this direction will be conditioned by costs of labour at source and by freight rates as much as by consumer demand.

There has been a great deal of talk during the high phase about the use of substitutes, analogues or proteins. In quite a few around the country, education committees have passed propositions that they substitute "spun meat" for real thing and where the agreed to do so, there do appear to have followed reportable disturbances in dinner strikes.

Quietly, but more widely has been the use of these proteins in meat products rather as additives or one hastens to add, though complete replacements for the thing. This is not surprising. It is appreciated that other high protein products have for many years been by meat manufacturers.

Substitutes must have place in any high price era but until they are created to grill or roast, real thing, their invasion of traditional supplies is likely to be gradual rather than phenomenal, yet the "fillers" would release substantial tonnage of real the trade.

Processors see quality raised

By JEFFREY BROWN

The meat processing industry plays a vital role in feeding the nation—not only feeding it but doing so effectively, efficiently and economically. In this country meat processing and manufacturing has reached a stage of sophistication equal to any, vast sums of money are spent annually on up-dating plant and equipment and new and more stringent methods of quality control are constantly being devised.

On the one hand the supply and price vagaries of the industry's basic raw materials—beef, lamb, pork, veal and poultry—have pushed the meat processors into a position of high efficiency, while secondly the whims of consumer demand have been equally effective in raising the quality of the finished product. The search for areas of improvement is a continual process, and one reason for the industry's surveillance is that food markets tend to be distinctly sluggish in terms of growth.

Elsewhere, in canned meats the major names include Fray Bentos (Brooke Bond), Marks and Spencer and Sainsbury's own-label brands plus Tom Piper which is Australian manufactured but marketed in the U.K. by Smithfield and Zwanenberg, now part of the S. and W. Berisford group. The market for canned meats is expanding slowly, the industry's promotion bill (which was negligible a few years ago) is now probably over six figures and the sector is perhaps no longer a modest backwater.

The market for ready-to-eat canned meats (colds) is probably even more fragmented than its hot counterpart. Certainly there is a long history of importing which many within the industry regard as outright dumping. However, the U.K. does have strong trading links with Denmark and Holland, hence the existence of brands like Plumrose and Old Oak. At home the market leaders probably amount to Fray Bentos, Spam (Fitch Lovell), Unox (Unilever) and, once again, various retail chain own-labels.

In many areas of non-canned processed meats foreign competition is unknown, purely because of the perishable nature of the product: sausages and pies, for example, have a shelf life of barely two days. Distribution problems are one reason for the large slice of the sausage market still held by the in-

dividual butcher who does not have to distribute his perishable output long distances from the manufacturing table. The retail butcher still controls about 30 per cent of the total U.K. market whereas Walls (Unilever) is probably the individual brand leader, with a market share of less than a tenth.

Major brands

Unilever also owns the Richmond brand, while elsewhere the other major brands include Brazils (Scot-Bowyers, part of the Unigate group), Harris and Marsh and Baxter (FMC) and Telfers (J. Lyons) which are mostly sold wholesale to the catering industry. On a more regional basis there is the Glasgow-based private company McKellar Watt, while Fitch Lovell also has a sizeable stake in sausages based on some solid regional market shares.

But the meat processing industry is not solely a story of sausages. Scot-Bowyers, for example, is very much in the pie business and so too is Pork Farms which, with Scot-Bowyers enveloped in the folds of the Unigate group, remains just about the one sizeable independent in the trade. Its major production lies with high quality pies of the Melton Mowbray variety which it markets aggressively in the Midlands and also in London. Based in Nottingham, the company came to the stock market towards the end of 1971.

At Scot-Bowyers the emphasis is on taking the pig as raw material and utilising the animal to the highest level possible. Thus the group is in the thick of the bacon and hams trade as well as sausages, pies and various cooked meats. Until the latter part of 1972, when it agreed to a bid from Unigate (a dairy and transport combine), Scot-Bowyers was a fast rising independent the product of a merger barely eight months earlier between Bowyers (Wiltshire) and Scot Meat Products which at the time looked, and subsequently proved to be, a "natural" marriage.

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MEAT AND POULTRY V

Rising production costs cause worry for bacon producers

PETER BELL, British Farmer and Stockbreeder

Bacon has come a long way since the front-line soldier in the World War I play, Journey's end, pointed proudly to a rasher of meat, washing-up machines and the other necessities of the 1970s. To put it to-day and to-morrow into perspective it is necessary to take a look at yesterday. Let us concentrate on bacon to start with. It is as peculiarly British as cricket, the Tower of London and the Changing of the Guard. Denmark even went to the length of tailoring a large slice of her economy to producing high quality bacon specifically for the U.K. market.

Thanks to breeding policies, market discipline and exemplary advertising she attained a reputation for quality and reliability that left an ill-organised home trade tottering in the rear.

Curiously, the home trade was at a basic disadvantage; it is much easier to muster experts to a certain standard than to organise a miscellany of home producers to market to a given quality from a variety of pig breeds kept under a variety of systems for a variety of purposes.

The pig cycle became a sort of sick joke. When pig prices were good, all sorts of men went into pigs; prices fell, borne down by the weight of inflated supplies; so there was an exodus from pigs; prices then rose because of shortage of supplies and the cycle began again. Meanwhile, the Danes and others profited from the U.K. muddle.

Happily, the past decade has seen a vast improvement in the situation. A useful basis was laid down when the International Bacon Market Sharing Understanding was negotiated in 1964. The market was divided according to levels of supplies at the time, and there was provision for countries to win bigger shares from those who did not fill their quotas.

A couple of years later, a curing industry, which was in danger of going under because it could not cope with the strength of the pork market and up pig grading standards. An given Government aid to tide over difficult patches on the understanding that it paid money back in times of prosperity.

This proved to be a subsidy for all practical purposes. The curers were able to pay back about £4m. against receipts of over £75m.

The British Bacon Curers' Federation pointed out, with a good deal of justice, that the Government would have had to pay out even more under the price guarantee arrangements (now being phased out as we move over to the common agricultural policy of the EEC). It added that the survival of the home curing industry had helped pig producers to survive and had resulted in £30m. a year being saved on imports.

The Danes complained bitterly at a competitive price for it and insincerely. While U.K. subsidies were overt, theirs was a covert—a fact which emerged



Slicing bacon at a rate of approximately 4,000 rashers a minute at a T. Wall and Sons factory.

Harvest season

No one knows how pig feeders (pork as well as bacon) will be next month, let alone in months' or a year's time. It is a problem with which the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Joseph Godber and NFU President Sir Henry Plumb will be grappling during September when the harvest situation in the U.K. and the northern hemisphere in general will be clearer.

Pigs and poultry, dependent as they are on bought-in feed, are particularly vulnerable to changes in feed prices, and the Minister may have to act if the pansion he has sought is in danger of turning into a recession. For the moment the Government is praying for good harvest weather even more devoutly than are farmers.

Whatever the outcome, the fact remains that the days of relatively cheap feed are over, one for good, and with them the days of (relatively) cheap pork. It is in this climate that the products of all kinds will have to face the future. They will not face it alone.

To a eater or lesser extent all her other meats are in like light, though not always for the same reasons.

Judging by present indications, feed prices can be expected to level off and even fall a bit. If this is so, the cure for good bacon, and especially good British bacon, is to be hopeful: perhaps even better certainly for pork.

Ve like our bacon, and a progressively more affluent nation will be prepared to pay a competitive price for it and insincerely. While U.K. subsidies were overt, theirs was a covert—a fact which emerged

when Denmark joined the Community without any transitional period. The move in bacon prices gave the game away.

Britain, of course, has had to renounce both the stabiliser (as the "loan" arrangement was called) and the Market Sharing Understanding. So it can now be said that all competitors (except third countries) are equal.

Britain, however, is more equal than Denmark, to the extent that it is easier to service your own market (now well organised) than for an exporter to do so. For his/her part, the consumer has to pay the full price for the product.

Improved quality

The enormous improvement in the quality of British pigs must not be forgotten. The curing industry, led by the politically expert Sir John Stratton, aided and abetted by the NFU, year by year pushed up pig grading standards. An animal which would have graded A1 a few years ago, might to-day not grade at all.

This, and other factors, tended to push the in-and-outers (who helped to fuel the pig cycle) out of business. To-day the industry is one for professionals. This has made for stability and quality, with many more producers under contract to specific bacon factories than in the past. Others have set their sights at the pork market.

All the same, the latter can be a second line of defence even for the bacon producer—a fact which certainly keeps the curers on their toes. They are now subject to an agreed code of curing practice and are much more alert to the niceties of producing a commodity acceptable to the public. Emphatically it wasn't only the producer who needed to improve.

There is now a readily available choice of cure (mild

being favoured in Scotland and the South, and saky in the Midlands) and also prepack or Witshire side. Be it noted that the Danes have slipped from supplying almost half the U.K. market to parity with Britain, who has half as expensive again as it was a year ago. But the same goes for rival meats, including pork. If there's no disaster on the cost-of-production front, bacon will be even more to the swift. This autumn, for the first time ever, the curers are spending a sum on advertising which bears some relationship to the routine expenditure of the Danes. The cry will be that British bacon is an every-meal meat.

Bacon—when eaten—is half as expensive again as it was a year ago. But the same goes for rival meats, including pork. If there's no disaster on the cost-of-production front, bacon will be even more to the swift. This autumn, for the first time ever, the curers are spending a

market, Denmark three-eighths and Ireland and Holland the rest. But the market will be a smaller one than in the past because of cost—say 10,000 tons a week instead of 12,000.

A vastly improved pig and good prospects. But it will get more help from the beef/lamb shortage than from the mechanism of the Community's CAP.

Poultry meat on the fore

PETER BULLEN

ultry meat became the most popular meat in the homes this year. Almost 4.9 oz and lamb and mutton at 4.9 oz and pork at 3.29 oz. Seen against the background of comparative costs of the meats the rise in popularity of poultry meat is not surprising. During the same quarter the average expenditure on beef was 21.10p per person each week, 11.5p on mutton and lamb, 8.45p on pork but only 8.45p on poultry.

But since then this price advantage of poultry meat has been dealt a severe blow by the world protein shortage and soaring feed prices. In turn wholesale broiler prices have reached the highest point for more than a decade and retail prices are following suit. A year ago a three lb broiler would have sold for about 17p a lb. Now the price is around the 25p a lb mark and still rising.

Breeding stock

The industry fears even further price increases will have to be made unless the cost of feedingstuffs falls dramatically. Lord Edward Fitzroy, chairman of Ross Poultry, which produces more than one in four of Britain's broilers as well as exporting breeding stock to several countries including America, has said broilers could cost more this autumn and by Christmas turkeys could be as much as

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MEAT AND POULTRY VI**Concern over profit margins on eggs**

BY JOHN EDWARDS

Considerable changes in the eggs industry have taken place during the past year. Egg prices have soared to record levels—about double what they were a year ago—and it is generally expected that there will be further price increases by the time the seasonal peak selling season before Christmas is reached.

Despite these much higher market prices, however, there is still considerable anxiety about profit margins among egg producers, many of whom claim that higher prices yet will be needed to achieve an adequate return.

The reason for the higher prices, and the concern about profit margins, is the same—a tremendous upsurge in costs of production, especially feeding-stuffs. Feed is estimated to account for some 70 per cent. of the egg producer's total costs, so naturally it has a vital influence on profits and eventual selling prices.

The huge rises in the costs of cereals, and proteins, used in animal feedstuffs during the past 12 months has been well documented, with the Price Commission approving several increases in the price of compound rations. Suffice to say that the egg producer is on average reckoned to be paying over £75 a ton for his feed, while a year ago it was just over £40 a ton. Feed costs alone are now thought to be around 20p a dozen, although some of the big producers can obviously make savings in this area by buying large quantities and purchasing forward. There is every indication that these feed costs will continue to rise, despite the recent easing in grain markets, because of the time lag in passing on higher prices and the amounts absorbed by the compounders.

Big unit

Other costs of production have also risen, probably more for the big producer than the big unit, and it is calculated that it is now costing on average over 25p a dozen to produce eggs. Add to this basic production cost, the margins needed by the producer, packer, wholesaler and retailer, and it will be seen why there is growing pressure for higher and higher prices.

Comparison with last year's egg prices is not realistic, since a surplus of supplies in 1972 depressed prices to artificially low levels inevitably creating the cutbacks in new production that has brought the present shortage of supplies. Chick placings were reduced to only 48m. birds in 1972, compared with 64m. in 1969—a huge decline. This year there are signs of a recovery in chick placings, with a definite upturn in May and June, but the first half-year figure of 25m. was in fact below the first half of 1972 of 28m., and very much down on previous years.

Improvements in yields of eggs per hen, because of better breeding stock, and more success in fighting diseases obviously is helping to boost production, but the industry does not expect really adequate supplies to be available until next year, unless the higher prices bring a significant downturn in demand. The big surprise this year has been imports from the EEC—or rather the absence of supplies from the other members of the enlarged Community.

Last year, prior to Britain's entry into the Common Market,



Six-week chickens on a poultry farm near Malden in Essex.

it was being predicted that any shortfall in U.K. production would be quickly filled by a flood of imports from the EEC countries, assisted by an export subsidy roughly equivalent to 2.5p a dozen agreed under the transitional arrangements. In the event this simply has not happened. There appears to have been a miscalculation of the supply-demand position on the Continent: instead of huge surpluses building up there demand has kept well up with available supplies and prices have remained sufficiently high in Continental domestic markets to discourage a great deal of exporting.

At the same time higher prices than those obtainable in Britain have been offered by buyers in the Middle East and the U.S. Imports from Europe have been coming into the British market, but only at the higher price levels and not in sufficient quantity to depress prices significantly for any length of time.

However, past history has shown that the situation in the egg industry can change very rapidly. Apparent acute shortages of supplies have been known to turn quite quickly into surpluses—the difference between a shortage and surplus often being very small in relation to the total market.

At the same time there has not apparently been the disappearance of producing units feared last year when prices were so low. Producers forced out of business by cost pressures in many instances managed to dispose of their producing units to the larger companies, who had the resources to ride out the period of depression. These

big groups—now even bigger—are now expanding fast to fill the shortfall in supplies, notably the giant Eastwood group, who announced in January a huge expansion in production much to the consternation of many competitors, who thought the move premature. Eastwood's decision to expand, and break away from the Goldenlay marketing consortium, has meant greatly increased competition, especially for what is known as the High Street trade, and this may well bring more price competitiveness when the supply shortages are retrieved.

No control

The fragmentation of the egg producing industry since the demise of the Egg Marketing Board some three years ago has meant that there is no overall control in tailoring production to meet demand—it is a truly "free" market where each individual producer makes his own decisions and the only influence on production is the market price received.

An announcement is expected to be made shortly by the Ministry of Agriculture about the future of the Eggs Authority, established in March 1971 as a successor to the Marketing Board but with very limited powers. A review of the Authority carried out this summer was required because from next March the Government subsidy to egg producers, from which the funds to finance the Authority are deducted, is due to be finally phased out. It is expected that the Ministry will favour continuing the Authority, with funds provided by a levy on the industry. But many producers have said they will not pay the levy unless given a stronger voice in the Authority's decision—if they pay the piper, they should call the tune, it is argued.

The Government, however, sees a wider role for the Authority as it is now representing as well the interests of other sections of the industry, and most important of all, the consumer. The net result could well be an Authority with even less power than now. Certainly it will not be able to exercise much control over the fluctuations in supplies and prices that are likely to continue in the egg industry in the years ahead.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Poultry meat

tent plus the expense of altering storage and processing plants to take them.

What is exciting animal nutritionists, however, is the development in man-made proteins such as ICI's proposed £15m. plant to produce 100,000 tons of protein a year from North Sea gas. Even if the peak protein prices of £250 to £280 a ton eventually level out at £100 a ton below these peaks they will still be at the point that will begin to justify the massive capital injection that artificial protein production demands.

But the poultry industry is facing other major worries as well as feed costs. An acute labour shortage is developing in packing stations where Phase Two restrictions are keeping wage levels at unattractive rates compared with other employment.

Ross Poultry are 600 below the 4,500 establishment level needed and the whole industry has only about three days' supply of chickens in the pipeline at present—a dangerously low margin. Chick placings are being cut back to slow down the throughput at packing plants and this will add fuel to the increasing prices just at the moment the industry was making its greatest impact on the overall meat supply market.

Britain's Common Market entry has also brought a string of problems. Few of the other EEC countries can approach the U.K. in terms of competition. Britain is virtually self-sufficient in poultry meat and exports widely in Europe. But EEC regulations may alter the picture soon.

One such regulation due to come into force before the end of the year would stop the growing export trade with other EEC countries overnight. It calls for all exports to come from licensed packing stations measuring up to certain common standards and having teams of inspectors examining every bird processed. By early 1976 the regulation will also apply to birds sold on the domestic market.

The trouble at the moment is that no packing stations have been licensed and no inspectors have been trained to examine the poultry. Meanwhile, the industry and the Government are still arguing about who should pay to train and employ the inspectors and bring the

packing stations up to standard. If the industry foots the bill it will mean even more costs that will be passed on to the consumer.

The same EEC health directive will mean the end of the 255m. a year trade in fresh plucked birds in 1976. These birds, known as New York Dressed (which means they are sold with their feet and head and insides intact) will have to have their viscera or internal organs inspected, which will put an end to the unviscerated trade.

Some packers are beginning to move in this direction already and are installing sophisticated chilling and drying machinery which preserves eviscerated broilers in a "fresh bird" state with a limited shelf life instead of freezing them solid. Housewives are said to have shown enthusiasm for these birds which do not require a long thawing-out period and are quite prepared to pay up to 3p a pound premium for them.

Many other ways of expanding poultry sales are being tried including pre-stuffed chickens and broilers injected with curry and other flavours including one called "natural chicken" flavour.

Chicken portions

The sale of chicken portions has boomed in recent years and few towns are now without a take-away food shop selling whole or parts of chickens ready cooked and many fish and chips shops have added fried chicken to their menus. With the hundreds of thousands of chickens going into soups, frozen pies and other products plus the fried chicken market as well as its massive broiler sales the industry confidently expects to sell a record 300m. birds this year despite its feed price and labour troubles.

In the turkey sector, a record output of 17½m. to 18m. birds will be marketed by the end of 1973—double the output of 1966 when the trade was mainly centred on the Christmas market.

Now it is an all-year-round trade with less than 50 per cent. being sold during the festive season. The expansion started with the concentration of publicity for turkeys at other Bank Holiday periods and general summertime sales. The develop-

ment of the specially bred "mini-turkeys" helped the process as the small six to eight pound birds were more popular than the nine to 12 pound heavyweights that families prefer at Christmas.

Other developments include the manufacture of turkey roll or meat loaf of boned, pressed turkey meat and even deep-basted birds—turkeys injected with a natural basting oil to save housewives the chore of repeated hand-basting on Christmas morning.

The comparatively low price of turkey meat has led to a new trade in the traditional butchers shop—turkey cuts. Heavy turkeys of 18 lbs upwards, sometimes dubbed "two-legged lambs" in the meat trade, can provide a variety of roasting joints, escallops, steaks and fillets if cut properly, and more than 1,000 butchers have been attending demonstrations up and down the country on this new cutting art.

The demonstrations are being organised by Mr. Bernard Matthews, Europe's biggest turkey producer. Mr. Matthews, who is chairman of the British Turkey Federation, has no illusions about the future facing the 460 producer-members of the BTF.

"I believe the continuing high prices in the red meat market present us with a great opportunity. It is up to our industry to use all the facilities available through further processing and advertising and promotion to make further significant gains in our share of the total meat market," he exhorted them earlier this year.

Even the swingeing increases in feed prices have not shaken his belief that turkey sales will continue to climb. He is convinced the high prices for protein crops will serve as a stimulant to producers, especially American farmers, and there will be a major expansion of acreage and total production leading eventually to lower market prices and cheaper feed for poultry producers.

In the meantime the question vexing the industry must be whether or not the chicken and turkey-eating habit has become so deeply engrained that sales will not suffer if, as expected, there is a "flush" of home-bred cattle this autumn which will bring red meat prices down to more competitive levels.

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Volume production of Watford extended Daf range to begin in autumn go-ahead for £10m. shop scheme

By DAVID WALKER

DAF, THE NETHERLANDS' only car manufacturer, is extending its model range with the 1,298 cc versions of its Marathons saloon, estate and coupe models. The new cars, designated the 1300 series, are like all Dafs in having the company's Variomatic automatic transmission system. The engine unit is made by Renault, and is basically that of the French company's 1271 cc models with slight modifications. Daf already uses a Renault engine in its 66 series cars. In addition to the more powerful engine, the 1300 models also feature a new headlamp system incorporating linked halogen spot lamps, a revised interior layout with re-designed fascia, safety seats with built-in headrests, a laminated windscreen as standard, a new design of collapsible steering column, rear seat belt anchorage points, and a tunnel-mounted console complete with cigarette lighter.

Volume production of the new range is due to start this autumn, with supplies reaching Daf dealers in this country soon after. The 1300 Marathons saloon will sell here at £1,399, with the coupe version carrying a recommended price of £1,499 and the estate a £1,525 price tag.

Also announced yesterday were styling and equipment changes for three of the Australian-made Chrysler models sold here by selected Chrysler U.K. dealers.

The models are the £2,711 Regal Saloon, its £2,908 Estate variant, and the £2,810 fastback Charger 770.

All three are now to be fitted with electronic ignition. Improved ornamentation, a new grill with round headlamps, new indicator lamps, a revised instrument cluster, new headlining and detail interior improvements are other features of the 1974 range. French-made Simca cars, produced by Chrysler France, but sold here alongside U.K. manufactured vehicles, are also subject to detailed changes for 1974. Cloth seats become standard on several of the saloons; the 1100 range has a new fascia; and there is revised electrical equipment for the 1301 and 1501 models.

The British-designed but French-made Chrysler 180 and two-litre saloons are to continue unchanged for the next year.

Improvements to Chrysler U.K.'s own cars are expected to be announced next month nearer the date of the Earls Court Motor Show.

By Peter Riddell

WATFORD COUNCIL has given the go-ahead for a major shopping development in the centre of the town costing an estimated £10m.

It has accepted a fixed price tender from Howard Farrow Construction for building the centre, which covers a 4.7 acre site to the north-east of Watford High Street and Market Place. The development, which is to be carried out by the council on its own, will provide a large store, a supermarket, about 25 shops, a large covered market, a public house, a restaurant and parking for 800 cars. Ley Colbeck and Partners has designed the scheme.

It is also intended to provide a new 150-bedroom hostel to be run by the YMCA, which will include a variety of social facilities, including a restaurant, gym and meeting room. The details of the design are being prepared by Roff Marsh and Partners.

Part of the development will be financed from normal local authority sources and part by Grasshopper Property Unit Trust (for whom Healey and Baker acted).

Hillier Parker May and Rowden has acted as development consultant to the Council and will be the letting agent.

Guernsey glasshouses plan

A PLAN to encourage an investment of nearly £2m. in Guernsey's horticultural industry next year has been put before the island's Parliament.

From 1,000 acres of glasshouses the island exports £15m. worth of tomatoes and flowers annually to the U.K. but the committee for Horticulture says too much of the industry's glass is obsolete.

It wants the Parliament on September 26 to vote £300,000 for investment grants to be allocated up to the end of 1974. The grants would cover up to a third of the cost of building new glasshouses. If the whole amount is taken up, says the committee, growers would be investing at least another £1.2m. in the industry.

But the committee's idea that similar sums should be granted annually for the next five years has been opposed by the Advisory and Finance Committee which wants to see how much of the first £300,000 is taken up before committing the local exchequer to a long-term plan.

The Committee for Horticulture says the investment is urgently needed to prevent more glass from becoming uneconomical. U.K.'s own cars are expected to be announced next month nearer the date of the Earls Court Motor Show.

It wants 40 acres of glasshouses to be modernised each year over the next ten years, which would cost at least £15m. and is to produce a long-term, overall policy for the industry into EEC trading conditions.

However, if present trends continue, says the committee, 100 to 150 acres will go out of production in the next five years at a time when the island's best-equipped growers are producing 50 per cent more tomatoes and flowers per acre than their U.K. and Dutch competitors. Modern glasshouses, it says, can increase gross returns to producers by up to £5,000 per acre.

APPOINTMENTS

Two directors for Weir Group

Mr. F. R. Frame and Mr. J. ANSBACHER AND CO., merchant banking subsidiary of Fraser Ansbacher.

Mr. Frame, a solicitor, joined the group as secretary in 1963. Mr. Ansbacher, a Swiss national, joined the company in 1972 to undertake special projects on the Continent.

Mr. Guy Burgun, Mr. Paul Hughes and Mr. Roy Thomas have been appointed assistant directors of WILLIAMS GLYN AND CO.

Mr. F. J. Moreton will retire as chairman of KAYE SON AND COMPANY and subsidiary companies on September 30, and Mr. R. Desmond Tobin has been appointed chairman of Kaye Son and Company and subsidiary companies from October 1.

Mr. Stephen Matthews is joining the Board of INTASUN and Intasun (North) to become director of finance and administration.

Mr. J. A. Blair Scott has been appointed by the INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY to be its regional officer for the South of England. He will take up the appointment on November 5, when the present regional officer, Commander G. W. Alcock, reaches retirement age.

Mr. Peter J. Lawson has been appointed as director of GREEN PRECISION INDUSTRIES. He will also join the Board of Rathdown Industries and Henry and Thomas. All three companies are members of the Unitedtech group.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has appointed Mr. G. S. Bishop as one of his nominees on the Board of the AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION to succeed Sir Richard Manklow, who has retired. Mr. Bishop is chairman of Booker McConnell.

Mr. W. F. E. Price has been appointed deputy managing director of AVICA EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Roger Young has been appointed a director of HENRY

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTMENT SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

Principal building and development company operating in Sydney area of New South Wales would invite inquiries with regard to finance and investment proposals. Ring 01-262 1234, R. M. Hogarth, Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London, W.1. 9-10 September, 23-30 September, 1973.

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BUILDING PRODUCTS

Norwegian manufacturers of 1. Pivot Windows 2. Plastic Ventilators seek UK agents/distributors. Further information from Export Council of Norway, 20 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5NE. Telephone 01-539 6261.

The manufacturers will be exhibiting in London in November, and representatives from Norway will be in attendance.

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COMPANY NAME

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Seeking to acquire a well established Company in the building and/or shopping field, located in London or the Home Counties. Principals only please, write Box E.1082, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY. All replies are treated in strict confidence.

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\$45½. In Paris, the one-kg gold ingot was fixed Frs at Frs.15,005. Gold in the Bourse meeting was

Sept. 4 1973	Bank Rate	Market
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	Rate %	Days Spread
New York	7 1/2	2.4400-4500
Montreal	8 1/2	2.4540-4700
Amst'dam	6 1/2	0.51-61
Brussels	6 1/2	51.51-52.50
Copen'gen	8	14.02-16
Frankr't	7	5.97-6.04
Lisbon	8 1/2	57.01-57.80

Madrid	118	133.57-133.88
Milan	4	1,575-1,580
Oso	6 1/2	13.84-72
Paris	9 1/2	10.81-65
Stockholm	5	10.30-39
Tokyo	7	648-658
Vienna	5 1/2	44.03-85
Zurich	4 1/2	7.38-7.47

↑↑ Basic discounts, Δ Bank discount rate. * P. 100.

OTHER MARKET RA	
Argentina	12.15-12.25
Australia	1.7245-1.7578
Brazil	14.90-15.10
Finland	9.04-8.05
Greece	72.54-74.53
H'ng K'ng	12.565-12.645
Luxemb'g	81.80-82.08
Malaysia	5.5810-5.5731

N. Zealand	1,234-1,240	Cost.	
Singapore	7,150-7,162	India	
U.S.	1,626-1,632	Spain	
Canada		U.S.	
U.S.		Cost.	
	92.58-92.61		

1 Based on rates quoted by dealers. Other rates shown where. (a) Selling rate. (b) Financial rate. (c) For Sept. 3; later rate rates.

FORWARD RATES

	One Month	
New York	0.80-0.70 a pair	
Amst-dam	1.55-1.20 a pair	
Amst-dam	24-14 c pm	
Brussels	50-60 c pm	
Copenhagen	50-60 c pm	
Frankfurt	50-60 c pm	
Lisbon	75 c pm	
Madrid	5 lire pm	
Paris	50-70 c pm	
Stockholm	70-74 c pm	
Vienna	60-64 c pm	
Zurich	74-76 c pm	

Izuzu Motor finished 230, after rallying his report that it received over 3,000 trucks word from China.

Sony lost Y50 at 4½

Steels, Non Ferrous Trading Houses, Paper Insurances all eased.

Among limited gain Japan Line, up 2½; rumours that it plans refinery in South Korea operation with Toho, at 286, and C. Moh, up

COPENHAGEN

JOHANNESBURG

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These indices are the joint compilation of The Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and The Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS		Tuesday, September 4, 1973	Monday Sept. 3	Friday Aug. 31	Thurs. Aug. 30	Wed. Aug. 29	Year ago. (average)	Highs and Lows Index
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GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS											1973		Since Completion		
Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Foreign yield %	Gross Div. yield %	Net P/E Ratio (net)	Est. P/E Ratio (all)	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.					
Figures in parentheses show number of plants in section															

As indicated for measures			Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
1	CAPITAL GOODS (28)	184.56	-0.8	10.96	4.58	12.67	18.66	165.04	157.41	157.96	187.40	186.62
	Building Materials (24) ...	159.59	-0.9	9.26	4.50	11.82	11.23	161.11	162.86	163.93	163.48	195.30
3	Contracting, Construction (22)	372.01	-1.8	11.45	8.10	12.84	13.50	278.90	279.57	278.26	274.90	359.33
4	Electricals (16) ...	258.46	-1.1	10.72	3.92	12.87	12.87	261.43	264.55	265.34	264.77	303.94
5	Engineering (Heavy) (15) ...	171.03	-0.9	9.96	4.54	11.04	11.04	172.56	172.87	174.48	174.89	165.82
6	Engineering (General) (64)	350.18	-0.4	10.72	5.39	15.03	13.03	330.72	332.24	332.74	332.49	358.25
7	Machine and Other Tools (14)	56.83	-0.4	4.98	7.20	23.11	38.50	56.73	57.07	67.29	67.07	65.82
8	Miscellaneous (24) ...	142.31	-0.2	9.63	3.43	14.53	14.50	143.45	144.07	144.45	143.45	166.60
9	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) (60)	104.39	-0.5	11.53	3.81	11.92	11.88	168.44	168.68	165.89	164.76	200.87
10	Lt. Electronics, Radio TV (14)	195.98	-0.3	9.34	2.44	14.96	14.82	194.17	195.10	194.70	194.08	236.93
11	Household Goods (18)	199.49	-0.6	14.24	4.18	9.63	9.17	200.63	200.02	199.83	198.97	243.79
12	Motors and Distributors (30)	94.85	-1.0	13.57	5.41	10.14	10.14	94.56	95.46	95.04	94.87	128.63
13	CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) (170)	164.66	-0.8	10.86	4.41	13.45	13.24	166.00	167.00	167.85	167.84	214.09
14	Beverages (16) ...	191.40	-1.0	10.82	4.54	15.30	13.30	193.34	194.25	194.56	193.84	216.37
15	Wines and Spirits (8)	187.74	-0.4	9.83	4.55	14.30	14.30	188.48	189.69	188.14	188.14	211.71
16	Entertainment, Catering (16)	306.55	-1.3	10.83	4.89	12.51	13.48	311.14	312.36	316.41	316.77	396.91
17	Food Manufacturing (24)	346.98	-0.5	11.29	4.32	12.15	12.15	347.77	349.18	349.37	349.80	393.82
18	Food Retailing (18) ...	182.33	-1.0	8.43	3.16	16.93	16.95	183.80	184.23	185.13	185.09	219.84
19	Newspapers, Publishing (16)	218.47	-0.4	11.70	3.96	15.13	12.13	219.38	219.51	220.71	219.67	245.03
20	Packaging and Paper (15)	98.63	-0.3	11.40	5.52	12.01	11.98	99.51	100.14	100.13	100.37	126.87
21	Stores (28)	161.59	-0.7	8.66	3.60	15.50	15.50	162.43	163.16	164.13	163.57	191.38
22	Textiles (20) ...	162.62	-0.8	13.59	5.87	8.81	8.02	163.92	164.56	165.60	166.99	230.72
23	Tobacco (3) ...	240.38	-1.5	11.74	6.54	11.84	11.78	244.01	244.33	245.63	245.86	298.21
24	Toys and Games (6) ...	82.61	-0.6	10.94	3.23	12.96	12.96	82.91	82.91	82.91	82.12	71.87

OTHER GROUPS													(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
25	Chemicals (22) ...	---	155.94	-0.7	8.52	4.53	16.23	16.19	156.27	157.53	158.04	158.78	193.53	191.47	155.24	201.92	92.29
26	Office Equipment (10)		175.51	---	5.72	2.58	22.02	22.08	176.55	177.55	176.83	176.24	242.82	171.12	154.35	311.68	93.29
27	Shipping (10) ...	---	427.20	-3.5	8.89	4.11	13.36	12.02	438.00	441.96	443.05	441.89	459.81	515.97	427.20	517.00	90.80
28	Miscellaneous (41) ...	---	199.47	-0.4	9.98	4.06	14.09	14.09	190.32	191.42	191.99	190.58	241.70	242.55	199.47	238.83	75.52
														(11/1)	(4/9)	(25/22)	41/66

INDUSTRIAL GROUP (497)	185.47	-0.6	10.14	4.28	13.69	13.50	166.75	167.90	168.56	169.05	169.14	167.00	165.47	150.77	120.61
													(101)	(101)	(101)
Oil (3)	264.25	-0.4		4.56	23.26	17.55	165.85	168.44	172.51	172.61	176.14	176.40	176.40	176.72	120.61
													(101)	(101)	(101)
500 SHARE INDEX	174.05	-0.7	9.59	4.24	14.53	13.90	175.89	176.63	177.55	177.30	181.49	181.40	174.05	227.95	94.86
													(101)	(101)	(101)
FINANCIAL GROUP (101)	175.66	-0.7		3.49	-	-	176.96	177.91	178.41	177.96	216.38	230.48	175.66	241.41	99.35
													(101)	(101)	(101)
Banks (6)	192.66	-0.7	15.93	3.26	10.15	10.15	193.95	195.21	196.53	196.15	236.16	260.50	192.66	238.12	59.26
													(101)	(101)	(101)
Discount Houses (8) ...	171.31	-0.9	-	5.95	-	-	172.86	177.37	179.56	182.95	225.95	269.57	171.31	252.15	87.65
													(101)	(101)	(101)

[illegible]

2	Investment Trust Group (50)	172.30	-0.5	3.33	5.34	30.07	30.07	173.11	174.15	174.71	174.15	227.47	226.13	172.50	245.79	80.04
3	ALL-SHARE INDEX (651)	173.12	-0.7	-	4.10	-	-	174.34	175.57	176.37	175.92	216.82	215.05	173.19	222.10	53.72
COMMODITY GROUPS (Not included in 500 or All-Share indices)																
4	Rubbers (10)	424.06	-1.9	5.03	4.59	26.55	21.25	432.14	447.58	454.51	455.53	335.10	553.27	415.52	555.37	84.55

[illegible][illegible]

Insurance (other) Life Insurance Manufacturing Real Estate Finance Brokers Other Financial Gas and Spirits	31/12/76 31/12/76 31/12/76 31/12/76 31/12/76 31/12/76 31/12/76	129.83 129.83 129.83 129.83 129.83 129.83
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INSURANCE, PROPERTY, BONDS

\$ Yield %	Ebor Phoenix Assurance	\$ Yield %	Life & Equity Assurance	\$ Yield %	Royal Insurance Group	\$ Yield %
	£100,000,000		£100,000,000		£100,000,000	
	129.83		129.83		129.83	

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	±	Vol.	1973	Stock	Price	±	Vol.	1973	Stock	Price	±	Vol.	1973
"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)																
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1973	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	26	133	Alexanders Top	112 1/2	3 1/2	3.8	74 1/2	3 1/2	3.8	74 1/2	3 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1974	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	470	395	Alcander's D. P.	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1975	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1685	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1976	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1977	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1978	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1979	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1980	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1981	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1982	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1983	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1984	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1985	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1986	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1987	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1988	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1989	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1990	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1991	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1992	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1993	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1994	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1995	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1996	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1997	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1998	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 1999	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2000	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2001	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2002	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2003	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2004	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2005	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2006	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2007	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2008	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2009	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2010	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2011	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2012	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2013	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2014	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2015	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2016	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2017	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2018	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2019	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2020	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2021	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2022	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2023	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2024	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2025	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2026	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2027	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2028	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2029	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2030	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2031	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2032	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2033	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2034	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2035	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2036	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2037	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2038	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2039	98 1/2	5.33	10.95	1537	1537	Alcander's P. 180	120 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2	1.4	74 1/2	1 1/2
93 1/2	93 1/2	Treasury Spec 2040	98 1/2	5.33	10											

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

BUILDING INDUSTRY—Continued													DRAPERY AND STORES—Continued												
PIE	High		Low	Stock	Price	-	Div.	Cvt	V/P	PE	1973		Low	Stock	Price	-	Div.	Cvt	V/P	PE					
	Low	High									Low	High													
21	169	131	85	Manderson (Ride)	51	-	66.9	2.8	4.8	16.6	75	55	45	Sumner Sp.	56	-	515	1.9	7.6	9.9					
20.9	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7	4.1	8.8	143	55	45	Truett	46	-	515.3	3.8	4.8	9.9					
	122	101	88	Martin	131.00	-1	20.4	3.7																	

ST SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Undated

[illegible]

55	King & Shae Mfg.	55	\$12.9	—	8.7
55	Kleinwort B.L.	140	+5	\$11	—	2.8
55	Kleinwort B.L.	250	—	\$11	—	3.4

[illegible]

ENGINEERING AND METAL-Cont

[illegible]

HOTELS--Continued

	CW	FW	FW
		FW	FW
2.4	2.4	3.0	3.0
1.3	1.3	2.3	2.3
1.7	1.7	3.1	3.1
2.0	2.0	3.6	3.6
2.2	2.2	4.0	4.0
1.7	1.7	4.6	4.6
2.0	2.0	5.2	5.2
2.4	2.4	5.8	5.8
2.8	2.8	6.4	6.4
3.2	3.2	7.0	7.0
3.6	3.6	7.6	7.6
4.0	4.0	8.2	8.2
4.4	4.4	8.8	8.8
4.8	4.8	9.4	9.4
5.2	5.2	10.0	10.0
5.6	5.6	10.6	10.6
6.0	6.0	11.2	11.2
6.4	6.4	11.8	11.8
6.8	6.8	12.4	12.4
7.2	7.2	13.0	13.0
7.6	7.6	13.6	13.6
8.0	8.0	14.2	14.2
8.4	8.4	14.8	14.8
8.8	8.8	15.4	15.4
9.2	9.2	16.0	16.0
9.6	9.6	16.6	16.6
10.0	10.0	17.2	17.2
10.4	10.4	17.8	17.8
10.8	10.8	18.4	18.4
11.2	11.2	19.0	19.0
11.6	11.6	19.6	19.6
12.0	12.0	20.2	20.2
12.4	12.4	20.8	20.8
12.8	12.8	21.4	21.4
13.2	13.2	22.0	22.0
13.6	13.6	22.6	22.6
14.0	14.0	23.2	23.2
14.4	14.4	23.8	23.8
14.8	14.8	24.4	24.4
15.2	15.2	25.0	25.0
15.6	15.6	25.6	25.6
16.0	16.0	26.2	26.2
16.4	16.4	26.8	26.8
16.8	16.8	27.4	27.4
17.2	17.2	28.0	28.0
17.6	17.6	28.6	28.6
18.0	18.0	29.2	29.2
18.4	18.4	29.8	29.8
18.8	18.8	30.4	30.4
19.2	19.2	31.0	31.0
19.6	19.6	31.6	31.6
20.0	20.0	32.2	32.2
20.4	20.4	32.8	32.8
20.8	20.8	33.4	33.4
21.2	21.2	34.0	34.0
21.6	21.6	34.6	34.6
22.0	22.0	35.2	35.2
22.4	22.4	35.8	35.8
22.8	22.8	36.4	36.4
23.2	23.2	37.0	37.0
23.6	23.6	37.6	37.6
24.0	24.0	38.2	38.2
24.4	24.4	38.8	38.8
24.8	24.8	39.4	39.4
25.2	25.2	40.0	40.0
25.6	25.6	40.6	40.6
26.0	26.0	41.2	41.2
26.4	26.4	41.8	41.8
26.8	26.8	42.4	42.4
27.2	27.2	43.0	43.0
27.6	27.6	43.6	43.6
28.0	28.0	44.2	44.2
28.4	28.4	44.8	44.8
28.8	28.8	45.4	45.4
29.2	29.2	46.0	46.0
29.6	29.6	46.6	46.6
30.0	30.0	47.2	47.2
30.4	30.4	47.8	47.8
30.8	30.8	48.4	48.4
31.2	31.2	49.0	49.0
31.6	31.6	49.6	49.6
32.0	32.0	50.2	50.2
32.4	32.4	50.8	50.8
32.8	32.8	51.4	51.4
33.2	33.2	52.0	52.0
33.6	33.6	52.6	52.6
34.0	34.0	53.2	53.2
34			

WEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS[illegible]

77	Allied Brew.....	80	-1	†11.2	†2.1	5.0
78	P. Bid	74				

[illegible]

BOARD AND OTHER LOANS							
Mt.	50¢	72-89	—	55½	9.19	 11.24
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
57	57	57	57	57</			

[illegible]

30	Glinness -	130	-4	29	2.3	5.6
50	High'd Dist. 20p.	168	32	2.0	3.8
75	37				

[illegible]

Stock	Price £	+ or -	Div.	Red. Yield
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[illegible]

85	Ang. Am. Asph'l.	95	-1	10	1.6	2.6
20	Armitage Shinks..	152	136.7	2.3	6.0

[illegible]

AMERICANS

24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																							
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
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HOTELS AND CATERERS

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"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 2b

This service is available to every Company dealt in on Stock exchanges throughout the United Kingdom for a fee of £250 per annum for each security.

For Notes, see page 41

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THE LEX COLUMN

Decca as the victim of success

Decca's pre-tax profit sequence for the past three years reads £3m, £7.06m, and now £15.08m, which is £3m more than was projected here after the £3m advance at the interim. In 1971-72 the great bulk of the rise came from recovery on the capital goods side; this time the progress has been almost exactly equal on both consumer and capital sides leaving the latter with a maintained 35 per cent share of group profits. In fact, the encouraging point about a remarkable overall sales growth of 42 per cent in the year to March, 1973, is that the capital goods side managed 30 per cent. The rest is of course the story of the consumer durables boom, and particularly that in colour TV, whose profit contribution in the period must almost have matched that of records and tapes.

Naturally the fear of a consumer downturn and particularly the saturation cycle in colour TV is behind the appearance of a net p/e of just 84 on net earnings of about 40p and a share price up just 9p to 332p. Yet U.K. consumer sales only

account for one-third of the total, and the group seems confident of maintaining profits here at least this year. The conclusion is that Decca is a prime victim of an effect which has been notable in the market of late, namely, that an earnings gain of a quarter and one of 100 per cent receive scant differentiation.

See also Page 25

IMI

"Well over £10m." was the first half target set for IMI in a recent review by brokers J. and A. Scrimgeour — and the outcome is £10.8m. against £7.3m. That represents a volume gain getting on for a fifth, on a rising trend, and covering the entire group apart from refining where there have been some production problems. But volume growth was already in double figures towards the end of last year, and capacity limitations are an obvious reason for the slowdown projected by the brokers in the current half, leaving a mooted £22.5m. against £16.8m. for the year. With plant and labour difficulties continuing, estimated £11m. in second half

1973, a figure like this ought to be in the bag. Thereafter, the brokers' longer term reservations centre round the threat of substitution in copper tubing, and of companies in zip fasteners where last year's trading profits are put at £4.1m. IMI, naturally, begs to differ — and cites evidence of rising demand for copper tubing in Europe, plus the fact that the zip fastening subsidiaries all have substantial outside shareholders. Yet there is no obvious new reason for enthusiasm about a prospective net p/e of maybe 83, with Delta probably on a marginally lower multiple.

See also Page 25

Trident TV

A 23 per cent rise in gross revenue extended evenly over both halves of Trident TV's year: during its final quarter, and the first two months of 1973-74, revenue for the industry rose to a steady 20 per cent. With forward bookings extending to Christmas and beyond, a sales gain of perhaps 15 per cent in the year to next May looks perfectly feasible even in a frozen rates situation, and there is no

reason to expect a sharp acceleration in the rising trend of operating expenses.

Yet all this is irrelevant for the moment in a sector where profits are controlled and companies like Trident can return something over two-thirds on capital employed. The levy may have become a profits, as opposed to a revenue, tax by the end of Trident's year — something which the contractors favour, in principle. The Government will have to do something very hard to make an earnings yield of 22 per cent and a gross cash flow multiple of about 41 at 411p look expensive.

See also Page 30

Cornwall Property

The revaluation from Cornwall Property has the apparently remarkable effect of raising fully diluted net worth from 41p a share to around 130p, on the back of a surplus of £30.8m. on a £30m. book total for all properties. What that really shows is the extent of the undervaluation of Alliance's properties at the time of its absorption. The figure of 130p

is not easy for shareholders to arrive at, and includes an allowance for minority interests in Maidenhead Investments. More over the revaluation takes in residential building land of value £10m. which would attract taxation in principle. Still, one is left with a property company standing, at 100p, on a reasonable discount on net worth, but with the special appeal of an earnings yield of about 9 per cent, and projected growth this year.

See also Page 24

Provident Clothing

Provident Clothing's share price has stood up remarkably well to this year's weakness of the financial sector, but an historic p/e of over 20 now has to face up to the impact of unprecedentedly high interest rates on a group whose financial structure has shifted markedly towards short-term borrowing. Interim profits of £3.05m. before tax, up some 35 per cent, are good so far as they go, but have been boosted by the use of £10m. from the rights issue a year ago. As for higher money costs, short-term funds have

expanded from £14m. to well over £50m. in the past 18 months, and although there is some temporary protection from virtually complete exposure will result by the end of the year, rates could yet, of course, ease somewhat by that time.

In fact, there is no much real threat to Provident's growth status in the current year. Personal loans by the People's Bank are going ahead — though much more slowly than during the initial surge last autumn — and the current half will see a full six months' profits flow on this side. Elsewhere, the more modest growth momentum of checks and vouchers remains intact. The full year could top £9m. pre-tax, against £6.95m., dropping the p/e to around 16. What Provident now has to decide is whether to raise charges on vouchers and personal loans in order to protect margins in 1974; the fact that its longer lending gives it more of the cyclical characteristics of a normal finance house may not be fully reflected in its market rating.

See also Page 24

Lombard
The NHS
and the
market
economy

BY JOE ROGALY

ONE of the things that the Conservative Government that came to office in midsummer 1970 affirmed was the general principle that health care in this country is to be financed by taxation and provided as a national service. Sir Keith Joseph may have disavowed many health workers by his management theory scheme for re-organisation, but even when the Selsdon spirit was at its height he was resisting proposals for a general expansion of the private sector of medicine.

Thus for all its faults the National Health Service has shown itself strong enough to withstand any attack by those who believe that every problem can be solved by leaving things to the market. The unfettered market economy is simply not compatible with the proper provision of health care for all the people, as the American experience shows. This is now generally accepted in Britain by all save those on the extreme fringe of supply-and-demand theology.

Progress

Fresh evidence that this is so is published to-day, in the form of a report prepared by Lee Donaldson Associates for the Department of Health and Social Security. The associated statistical tables show the progress of the various insurance schemes over a number of years; these provide the financial basis for most private medical care in Britain although they do not, of course, account for the undoubtedly private self-medication end of the market, in which people make their own decisions, partly based on price, about what to take to cure headaches and stomach upsets.

The first point to note is that if people want private care for major medical treatments, they can have it. "The existence of a large number of schemes providing a wide range of different possible arrangements for private health care cover to an extent which paradoxically is perhaps not matched in other countries where comprehensive NHS care does not exist," the report says.

Choice

Yet in spite of this wide range of choice the total spending on private care by provident scheme subscribers in 1972 amounted to £27m. It is possible to postulate a slightly higher figure if the spending by private patients who are not insured is passed at, but it is highly unlikely that this would make much significant difference. National Health spending in 1971-72 amounted to £2,464m., which puts the private sector at just over 1 per cent of the total.

The number of subscribers to provident schemes is still growing, but slowly: it rose by 4 per cent to 1,018,000 last year. Many people do not stay in. Over the past decade there were 839,000 new enrolments to the three main schemes, but 887,000 lapses. In short, the private sector does not keep all its recruits.

The reason for this is plain. Nearly all the growth in the private sector of medicine in Britain is the result of companies taking out subscriptions on behalf of their employees. Last year the number of individual subscribers to the provident schemes declined by a net 6,000. Group subscribers now account for 68 per cent of total membership, compared with 58 per cent in 1964.

Diminishing

The benefit to a company taking out a subscription to, say, British United Provident Association or the Private Patients' Plan is that when an important member of the staff falls ill he can be treated at a time convenient to himself and the firm rather than at a time dictated by the length of the relevant NHS queue. To this extent those who say that the private sector facilitates "queue jumping" are correct; what they have yet to prove is that the uninsured are harmed by the practice.

What the protagonists of the benefits of the price mechanism in providing health care have to answer is the plain fact that in Britain, where the choice exists, the number of individuals who take advantage of it, as individuals, is small and diminishing. Even those who do use their insurance subscription usually do so only for "social treatments; for day-to-day cure they stick with the NHS. None of this means that the NHS is perfect, but that is another story.

TUC may organise winter
campaign for pensioners

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, LABOUR EDITOR

BLACKPOOL, Sept. 4

PROTEST INDUSTRIAL action could well be organised by the TUC this winter in support of a better deal for old age pensioners following decisions reached here to-day by the annual Trades Union Congress.

TUC delegates unanimously approved a resolution calling for industrial protest action to back up demands for pensions to be raised immediately to £10 a week for a single person, and £18 for a married couple, with subsequent increases to keep pace with inflation.

The delegates were assured that care would be taken to ensure that any industrial action did not harm pensioners — for example by stopping Post Office workers paying out pensions — and the resolution received the backing of the TUC General Council.

It was proposed by the Transport Workers, whose general secretary, Mr. Jack Jones, intends that if pensions are not sufficiently improved by the Government in Phase Three, he will press the TUC General Council to organise one hour, half day, and one day protest stoppages.

This is the first time the TUC has gone so far with its campaign

for pensioners. Any industrial action would presumably be linked with other protests which the unions might organise in Phase Three on issues such as prices.

The General Council is free, however, to put its own interpretation on what action should be organised. The resolution says that the TUC should "intensify its pensions campaign and lead industrial protest action as an essential part of this campaign."

To-morrow the Congress is expected to reject demands to call off its tanks, which will lead to Phase Three with the Government and to boycott the Pay Board. This will come during key debates on the economy.

The issue of the relationship between the Labour Party's annual conference — which meets here in a month — and the TUC was raised here to-day in a fraternal speech by the chairman of the Labour Party, Mr. Bill Simpson, of the Engineering Workers' foundation society.

Presentations being increased for the Parliamentary party to obey conference decisions. Mr. Simpson said to-day that if this did not happen it "could injure not only our chances of success at the polls, but also disrupt the

unity of the movement which has been so carefully built up during the last few years."

Mr. Simpson stressed that "for the party and the unions the next few months are crucial. The decisions made in Blackpool this week and in four weeks' time will chart the course of our movement for many months ahead."

In that context, he declared, it was essential to ensure that there was no conflict between the Parliamentary party and the conference. "It is essential to ensure that 'in the run-up to the election we face the people as a united party, with relevant socialist policies to solve the economic and social problems of our country.'"

Mr. Simpson described the agreement on economic policy reached earlier this year between the Labour Party and the TUC as a "unique document."

It was unique, he claimed, "because for the first time in the history of our movement the trade unions and the party have set out their economic and social objectives well in advance of a general election."

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The bank union battle flares up again Page 23

British Gas heading for loss

BY HAROLD BOLTER, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE BRITISH Gas Corporation made a consolidated profit of £5.7m. in 1972-73, but appears to be heading for a loss of £35m. in the current financial year because of the effects of price restraint.

Introducing the Corporation's annual report yesterday, Mr. Arthur Hetherington, the chairman, was severely critical of the Price Commission, which rejected an application for a rise of nearly 5 per cent in July.

"We are particularly disturbed that the application under the Price Code should have been rejected, on what we regard as a technicality, to which we had drawn attention when the Code was being drafted," said Mr. Hetherington.

"It cannot make sense in my view that we should not be able to raise prices, when we are incurring heavy increases in costs, which will cause us to move from a small profit last year to a large loss this year."

Mr. Hetherington claimed that the nationalised gas industry, refused a price rise because its costs per unit of output were falling, should have been treated as an exceptional case.

Although unit costs had fallen by about 6 per cent, overall prices dropped by 7.5 per cent last year as the volume of sales increased and the change to a natural gas industry proceeded.

Mr. Hetherington pointed out that over the last 10 years the average price of gas per therm had fallen by about 25 per cent, while the average retail price index had gone up by 65 per cent.

"The Price Commission, in rejecting the Corporation's application, has failed to take account of this phenomenon. It is difficult to believe that an industry should be deliberately forced into a loss-making situation through the operation of the Code," he said.

It is clear that any new request by the Corporation would have to be far considerably more than the 5 per cent sought earlier this year. There seems little chance, however, of a claim being lodged much before the end of this year.

The Corporation appears to accept that it stands no chance of gaining approval for an increase under the present Code, and that it will have to try to use whatever influence it has to get the Code changed during the autumn round of discussions on the Government's counter-inflation policy.

"The Corporation's £5.7m. profit in 1972-73 was achieved despite industrial disputes which cost the industry £5m. It secured a net return of 7.3 per cent, on average net assets employed, a marginal improvement on the target of a 7 per cent return."

Mr. Hetherington argued, however, that this 7 per cent target, which incorporates interest, is now totally inadequate for the industry's financial needs, because of the steep rise in interest charges since 1969.

It was essential that adequate provision was made for the cost of replacing existing assets out of current revenues, he declared. That could be done either by allocations from profits or by a specific provision in the accounts. Mr. Hetherington estimated that an appropriate amount would be about 2 per cent on net assets.

Apart from its financial problems, last year was a successful one for the Corporation in many ways. Gas sales rose by 27 per cent, at the same time as the labour force was reduced by just under 5 per cent.

On the supply situation, Mr. Hetherington disclosed that its agreement to purchase all production of the major Anglo-Norwegian Frigg field, east of the Shetlands, still to be ratified by the Norwegian Government, placed the Corporation in a much better position.

Although he gave a warning earlier this year that the Corporation might not be able to renew contracts for large users with a firm, that is not interruptible, supply this would no longer be necessary.

"Despite the difficulties of the next few years, before supplies become available, and subject to obtaining a fair market price, we will be offering to renew these contracts," Mr. Hetherington added.

Editorial Comment Page 22

Bowater
moves HQ
to Berkeley
Square

By Elinor Goodman

THE Bowater Corporation is moving its headquarters out of Bowater House in Knightsbridge, one of the most valuable leasehold office blocks in the West End, to Berkeley Square.

Bowater still has over 20 years to run of a lease from Land Securities on about 250,000 square feet of office space at Bowater House. The rent is well below the current market value. It has been estimated that the lease of the whole building is worth well over £5m.

The move will make vacant about 20 per cent of Bowater House, including the top three floors and the cinema. The rest of the building is already sub-let.

It is understood that the empty space will be modernised and adapted for the special needs of the old Bowater Paper Corporation. It is likely it will then be either sold off or sub-let.

Alternatively, Bowater could move one of its operating subsidiaries into the space. In the circumstances it seems unlikely that the lease will be sold back to Land Securities.

The merged Ralli International Bowater headquarters will move back to Ralli's old offices in Berkeley Square. In addition, Bowater has taken out a lease on 48 Berkeley Square, a Georgian building recently modernised by Compass Securities.

The asking rent for No 48 was £150,000 a year, and in view of the interest shown in the property it seems unlikely that Bowater has got it for much less.

The Bowater interim results for the six months to June 30 are due to be published on Friday.

Vauxhall turns
in £3.6m. profit
for first half

BY DAVID WALKER

A MAJOR profits turnaround was achieved by Vauxhall Motors, the British subsidiary of the U.S. General Motors, in the first half of the current year.

Pre-tax profits, the company stated yesterday, came to £3.6m. compared with a loss of £2.55m. in the January-June period of 1972 and an overall deficit last year of £4.1m. in spite of the boom in domestic demand for cars. The figures allow for exceptional factors, including losses resulting from currency realignments.

Big improvement
An operating profit of £7.47m. was achieved against a loss of £4.4m. in the corresponding period of last year.

This year's big improvement continues a trend which was becoming apparent in the second half of 1972. For the whole of that year, a trading profit of just over £1m. was recorded, with the pre-tax loss coming after allowances for several extraordinary items.

The advance this time was achieved in spite of the fact that the number of vehicles sold by the company fell. At 141,951 the figure for the six months to June 30 was 143,982 in the corresponding period of 1972.

The fall was recorded against a background of an overall rise in U.K. car sales in the first half of this year, at 916,068 against 888,439 in January-June 1972. The Vauxhall share of the car market so far this year has hovered at around 8.5 per cent.

against 9 per cent in 1972, 10 per cent in 1971, and as much as 13 per cent in earlier years.

In the commercial vehicle sector, on the other hand, Vauxhall achieved a substantial improvement. Of its total unit sales, 57,061 were commercials — nearly 25 per cent more than in the same period last year. Export sales alone rose from 13,000 to 22,000, with the Bedford marque accounting for 39 per cent of all U.K. truck sales abroad in the six months.

Despite the overall downturn in the number of units sold, price rises brought sales up in value terms. The first-half total of £146.5m. compares with £134.5m. in January-June 1972.

Vauxhall has been alternating between small profits and small losses for the last five years, and Mr. Alex Rhea, chairman and managing director, was cautious yesterday in viewing prospects for the year as a whole.

He had hopes that the first-half improvement would be maintained. Demand for cars and commercial vehicles was expected to continue at a good level in the second half, subject to the seasonal factors which normally mean an overall market downturn. The company's order book was fuller than at the same time last year.

A record had been set in August for Vauxhall's U.K. sales of both cars and commercial vehicles, he repeated. This tends to confirm other indications from within the industry that the month was the home market's best ever.

Cholera epidemic spreads
to Northern Italy

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

CONFIRMED CASES of cholera were reported yesterday in Florence and a suburb of Milan — further indications that the disease has gone in beyond the early epidemic area of southern Italy centring on the Bay of Naples.

There are signs that many British package tourists are refusing to travel to any Italian destination. A total of 10 people were reported to have died from the disease in Italy by last night.

Three of the biggest package tour companies, Horizon, Clarksons and Thomson, said travellers who did not wish to go to Italy would be offered alternative holidays. They would have to take what was left on the package tour shelves, however. Unlike

those booked for Naples, Sorrento and Capri, they would not be offered vouchers for holidays at some other time.

Officials in Naples and Bari are reporting a downward trend in case confirmations. In Bari province there are about 50 cases.

The Florence case was a 50-year-old woman who had eaten "large quantities" of mussels on a trip to Naples. In Piacenza, near Milan, a 31-year-old woman recently returned from the Middle East, also was found to have the disease.

The sale, cultivation, import and transportation of shell-fish is now banned in Italy.

Minister says cholera under control, Page 7

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia oil deals

secret of the fact it wants to renegotiate participation agreements — said the main business of the day was to give the go-ahead for the OPEC-sponsored dry dock scheme in Bahrain.

He described it as "the next step towards closer industrial co-operation between Arab countries so that Arab money can be used in Arab projects." The project, costing tens of millions of dollars, had been endorsed at OPEC's last meeting in June but the final agreement was postponed until yesterday to enable further studies to be made.

Dubai, which has been boycotting the Organisation because Bahrain was chosen as the site of the project, is building its own drydock.

The next important meeting of oil producing countries at which the price situation will be raised will be held in Vienna on September 15. At this specially arranged conference members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will review the effects of inflation on oil prices, possibly producing a formula to revise the basic pricing levels negotiated in 1971.

Just four days before then, however, the OECD's Oil Com-

mittee will meet in Paris to try to co-ordinate the position of major oil-consuming nations, faced with demands for higher prices.

Adrian Dicks wrote from Washington: In its first official reaction to the Libyan week-end takeover of foreign oil companies, the U.S. Government said to-day that it "deeply regrets the Libyan action as a breach of the country's obligations under the oil concessions agreements."

Mr. Paul Hare, the State Department spokesman, said the U.S. had not had the chance to study either the text of the nationalisation decree or the comments made in a Press conference yesterday by Mr. Abdel Salem Jalloud, the Libyan Prime Minister.

According to State Department officials virtually no oil from the nationalised fields has been shipped out of Libya since Saturday as a result of insistence by the Libyan Government that the oil companies sign a commitment recognising that 51 per cent of any oil lifted is under Libyan control.

OPEC oil group aims for common price front Page 6

Off Site

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